

INTERNATIONAL

Eight more govs resign

NEW DELHI, Jan 17. (Kuna): Governors of eight more Indian states today tendered their resignations on the advice of President R. Venkataraman.

With this the governors of 13 states have resigned their posts following the presidential directive to the governors of all states to quit in the wake of the change of government at the centre.

The governors who resigned today were: P.C. Alexander (Tamil Nadu), Mrs Renu Dulari Sinha (Kerala), Khurshid Ali Khan (Goa), R.K.S. Gandhi (Himachal Pradesh), Mohamed Usman Arif (Uttar Pradesh), Prof Nurul Hasan (Orissa), S. A. Wangma (Mizoram) and S.K. Bhatnagar (Sikkim).

The governors of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana and Nagaland had resigned yesterday, the Jammu and Kashmir governor had sent in his resignation the day before.

The resignation of the governors evoked protests from the Congress (I) ruled state governments. Karnataka Chief Minister Veerendra Patil said in Gulbarga that as a matter of propriety the union government should have consulted the state governments before asking the governors to resign.

Pondicherry Chief Minister M.O. H. Farook described the move as "unfortunate" but said he had not received any communication from the centre regarding the shifting of Pondicherry Governor, Lt Gen (retd) R.S. Dayal.

India's new government yesterday ordered the mass resignation of governors, the interior Ministry said.

It is the first major purge ordered by Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

"The prime minister feels that some changes have to be made where there were political appointments by the then ruling party," a Home (interior) Ministry spokesman said.

Such appointments, he said, had broken the tradition that governors should be "non-political figures distinguished in public life."

The spokesman said the government would probably reappoint many of the governors but president asked all of them this week to resign.

As the resignations streamed into Rashtrapati Bhavan, the president's official New Delhi residence, Congress leaders were in conference debating how to react. Rajiv Gandhi had an emergency meeting with Venkataraman last night.

Congress general-secretary V.N. Gaddi told reporters: "Those who criticised us for making political appointments now have politicised the very institution of governors."

The resignation demand was far less drastic than the purge ordered in 1977, the only other time since Indian independence in 1947 that Congress has lost a general election.

■ Indian External Affairs Minister I. K. Gujral today said that India will not militarily intervene anywhere under any circumstances.

He said the National Front government do not believe in military interventions. Gujral said that Pakistan Foreign Minister Yakub Khan would soon be visiting New Delhi and this opportunity would be used to have detailed talks in various aspects of Indo-Pak relations, including Kashmir and that no subject would be excluded.

On the phased pullout of the Indian peace keeping force from Sri Lanka, Gujral said it would be on schedule.

Toll 23 in Dhaka ferry capsizes

DHAKA, Jan 17. (AP): Divers employed by relatives found seven more bodies, bringing to 23 the number of people known to have died when a ferry capsized and sank, a newspaper reported.

Dhaka newspapers had said between 100 and 150 people were thought to have drowned when the ferry sank on Sunday night. The actual toll probably will never be known, since bodies are usually washed downstream.

About 80 passengers are listed as missing. Survivors of ferry accidents, which are common in Bangladesh, often swim ashore and walk away without informing the authorities.

The Bangladesh Times, a government-owned English-language daily newspaper, said divers found seven bodies yesterday after a daylong search.



Delhi demonstration

Women supporters of India's opposition Congress Party try to break through police cordon during a protest outside Prime Minister V.P. Singh's residence in New Delhi. About 200 women demonstrated against government inaction against violence in the southern state of Punjab and Kashmir. (Reuter wirephoto)

Indians acquitted

Fiji arms case

SUVA, Fiji, Jan 17. (AP): The High Court today dismissed charges against 18 Indians accused of smuggling enough arms and ammunition to start a "small war" in Fiji.

The group was arrested after tons of armaments, including automatic weapons, grenades and rocket launchers, were intercepted in Australia en route to the South Pacific nation. There were two successful coups in Fiji in 1987.

Fiji has a population of about 715,000, of which native Fijians comprise 47 per cent. Indians, descendants of British imported sugar plantation labour in the 19th century, make up 49 per

cent of the population. Europeans, Chinese and others make up the rest.

The 18 Indian defendants had pleaded guilty to charges of smuggling arms following their arrest 18 months ago, but the judge said he was satisfied most of the men were farmers, not criminals.

They were each ordered to pay the equivalent of \$35 court costs and then ordered released from custody.

The 18 originally denied charges against them, but on Monday changed their pleas to guilty following private talks among defence and prosecution lawyers.

New policy Lanka to boost ME missions

COLOMBO, Jan 17. (Kuna): Sri Lanka is to strengthen its diplomatic missions in the Middle East as part of the reorganisation programme undertaken by the Foreign Ministry, a statement said.

The statement issued by the Foreign Ministry said a new mission is to be established in Iran and the Lankan mission in Oman is to be upgraded.

Under the new programme initiated on the directive of President Ranasinghe Premadasa, a new setup, called umbrella organisation, are to be established in selected capitals, the statement said. Two such organisations will be set up in Kuwait and Cairo, it said.

Key witness absent

Enrile defends

MANILA, Jan 17. (UPI): Lawyers for opposition Senator Ponce Enrile presented evidence today countering charges that ex-army Col. Gregorio Honasan and some 100 rebel soldiers were at Enrile's house during last month's bloody coup attempt.

The witnesses are waiters of the five-star Silahis hotel, which catered the mass.

The statement of his acolyte, Antonio Adriano, was presented by the battery of prominent lawyers defending Enrile, the former defence minister who led the 1986 military revolt that ousted the late 20-year ruler Ferdinand Marcos and catapulted Aquino to power.

Enrile, who served as Aquino's defence secretary after the 1986 revolt, was fired after his aides, including Honasan, were implicated in an aborted coup attempt against Aquino nine months after she assumed office.

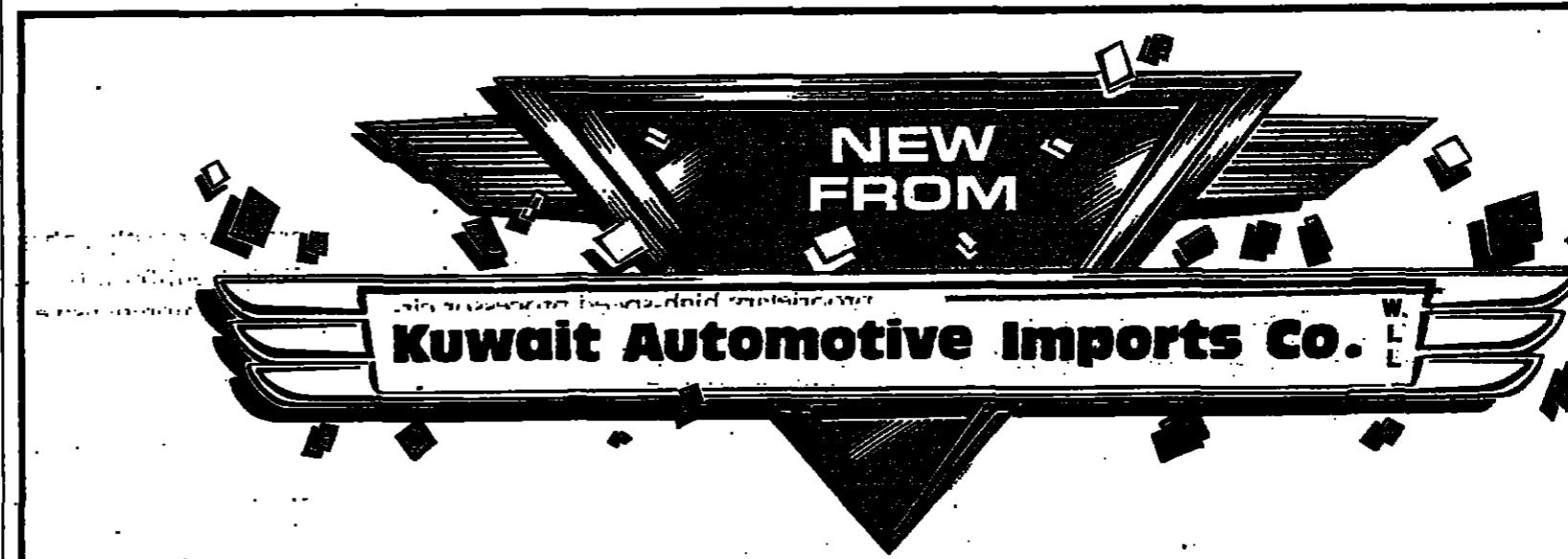
Honasan, who also led the Aug. 28, 1987, bloody coup attempt, is at large. The military panel is conducting the preliminary investigation, which will determine whether rebellion charges should formally be filed in court against Enrile.

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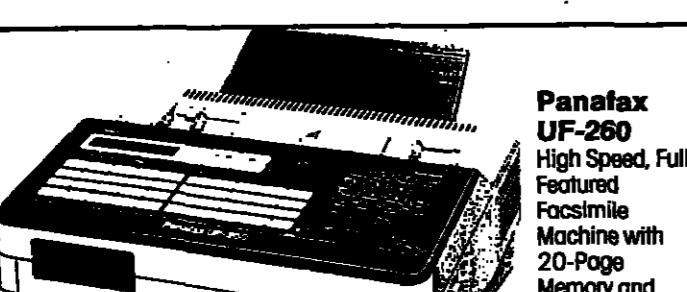
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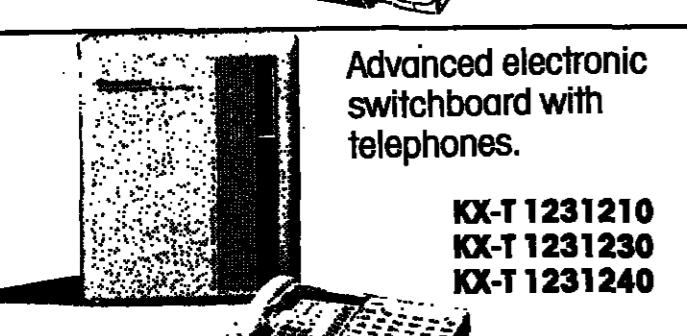
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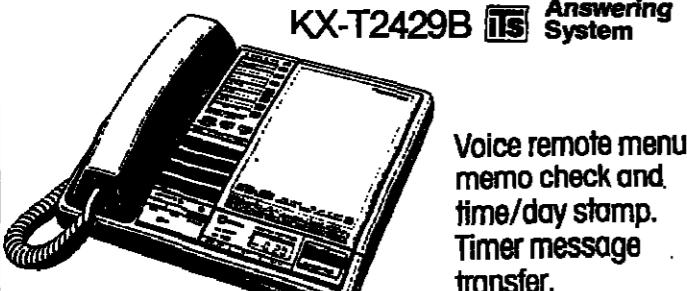
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Demolishing Noriega

A workman hammers at the emblem of Manuel Noriega's crack trooper unit, the Machos del Monte, as work continued on the demolition of his former HQ, Commandancia here. (Reuter wirephoto)

Peru envoy asked to quit Panama angry

LIMA, Jan 17, (AP): Peru has protested Panama's decision to expel its charge d'affaires, but has retracted its earlier order for all Panamanian diplomats to leave Peru.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox said in a communique that its embassy in Panama City would remain under the direction of a first secretary to ensure the safety of 12 Panamanians who sought refuge in the Peruvian ambassador's residence last week.

However, he said that Peru will reduce its diplomatic staff by an unspecified number of people.

Panamanians inside the residence include Gonzalo Gonzales, a former chief of security for ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega. Gonzales is wanted by US invasion forces in Panama.

Earlier Tuesday, Larco Cox said that the Peruvian government was giving all Panamanian diplomats 72 hours to leave Peru, after which they "will lose all their diplomatic rights and immunity."

His subsequent communique did not explain the change in Peru's position.

If Peru had expelled all of Panama's diplomats, Panama probably would have reciprocated — leaving the

Verdict against drug kingpin

Life without parole

LOS ANGELES, Jan 17, (AP): A federal judge sentenced a Honduran drug kingpin to life in prison without possibility of parole Tuesday, ending one of the largest cocaine trafficking cases in Los Angeles.

US district judge Paul Rymer sentenced Juan Ramon Matta Ballesteros after he was convicted in September of seven criminal counts, including conspiracy, possession and distribution of narcotics and running a criminal enterprise.

Prosecutors said Matta was head of a powerful cocaine cartel based in Cali, Colombia, that smuggled thousands of kilograms of cocaine into Mexico.

Matta moved almost 600 pounds (275 kgs) of cocaine with a street value of more than \$73 million through Arizona and southern California, prosecutors said.

In a pre-sentencing memorandum filed last month, assistant US attorney Manuel Medina described Matta as "perhaps the most significant trafficker in custody in the world to date."

The American School — Kuwait

Important Announcement

1. Re-enrollment for returning students for the 1990-91 academic year will take place between January 15 and February 15, 1990.

2. Siblings of returning students may be enrolled for the 1990-91 academic year with priority over other new students between January 15 and February 15, 1990.

3. New student applications for the 1990-91 year are now being accepted, but decisions for acceptance will be taken after February 15, 1990.

The school will be unable to guarantee places for its current students, and priority status for the siblings of current students who enroll after February 15, 1990.

Swiss to hand Noriega records

BERNE, Jan 17, (Agencies): Switzerland will release details of bank accounts linked to former Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega to help Washington press its drug-trafficking charges, the Justice Ministry said.

Castilovich said the decision did not signify a break in diplomatic relations.

"The diplomatic missions are being maintained. They are not closing," he said.

Relations between Panama and Peru have been strained since US forces invaded Panama on Dec 20 to overthrow and capture Noriega, who was sought in the United States on drug trafficking charges.

President Alan Garcia of Peru has been one of the strongest critics of the US invasion, and Larco Cox at one point called Endara a "Judas" for allowing US military forces to install him in the presidency.

In Miami, a lawyer for Noriega said yesterday he would try to force key prosecution witnesses to testify during a Jan 26 bond hearing in hopes of discrediting the government's case.

In a change of strategy, Miami lawyer Steven Kollin said the defense team would fight during the hearing to persuade a federal judge to release Noriega from US custody.

The government rarely puts forth witnesses at pre-trial hearings, and the defense is certain to face resistance.

Prosecutors plan to argue that Noriega should remain in jail awaiting his trial on drug trafficking charges.

Legal experts note that major drug suspects are seldom granted bail and say Noriega has virtually no chance of winning his freedom.

Noriega has been held in a cell beneath the federal courthouse since arriving in Florida after surrendering to US troops in Panama on Jan 3. He is charged with aiding Colombian drug traffickers and pocketing \$4.6 million in bribes.

A US prosecutor said Noriega and a co-defendant smuggled illegal aliens into the United States.

The accusations came during a bond hearing for a minor Noriega drug conspiracy co-defendant, Eduardo Pardo, 44, a Panamanian pilot who alleged flew cocaine plane to Florida to his homeland.

Colombian government rejects pardon proposal for drug lords as violence rages on

BOGOTA, Jan 17, (Reuter): The Colombian government has rejected a suggestion that it grant a pardon for drug lords in return for a halt in cocaine exports.

"There is no pardon and there will be no pardon for drug traffickers because it is not provided for in any law," Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds told reporters yesterday.

"The government can do nothing different than comply with the constitution and the laws of the republic," he said.

Lemos Simmonds told reporters that by law the

government could only pardon guerrillas laying down their arms, not drug traffickers.

His statement was in response to a proposal on Monday by the Roman Catholic church and others for some leniency for the drug lords in return for a halt in cocaine exports and the freeing of hostages.

The proposal was signed by Cardinal Mario Revollo and two ex-presidents, one of them the head of the ruling Liberal Party.

It was also supported by other political leaders,

including the head of the Conservative Party, the major opposition party, and the leader of the main

leftist party, the Patriotic Union.

It appeared to indicate that a growing number of politicians believed the five-month drug war was exacting too high a price.

About 193 people have been killed, more than 1,000 people have been injured and millions of dollars of property destroyed in bombings and other attacks since the traffickers declared war on the government in August.

Officials say that in recent months that cartel leaders have also abducted about 20 wealthy Colombians, including the son of President Vir-

ilio Barco's closest aide, German Monroy.

A senior army general said on Tuesday that the drug lords in Medellin, one of the centers of cocaine trafficking, were drawing up a response to the document.

Citing intelligence reports, General Harold Bedoya, head of Medellin's fourth brigade, said the traffickers were drawing up an offer to halt drug exports and free captives in return for a pardon.

In other developments, police dismantled a car bomb made up of half a ton of dynamite.

South Africa is at a turning point: Sisulu

ANC calls for intensification of struggle

LUSAKA, Jan 17, (Agencies): African National Congress leader Walter Sisulu called yesterday for intensification of the fight against apartheid, although he also said racial tensions are easing and South Africa is at turning point.

Sisulu told about 1,000 exiled ANC members that they should work toward negotiations with the South African government, but pursue their armed struggle to maintain pressure for rapid change of laws mandating racial segregation.

"The political struggle and the armed struggle go side by side," he said.

Sisulu and seven ANC colleagues, all of whom served lengthy prison terms in South Africa, are on a weeklong visit to Lusaka, the guerrilla

movement's exile headquarters. They came to help co-ordinate ANC strategy in the face of a rapidly changing political climate in South Africa.

The 60- and 70-year-old men received a rousing welcome from the ANC members who chanted, sang freedom songs and saluted with clenched fists. The hall was draped in the green, black and gold banners of the ANC and many members wore ANC scarves around their suit collars.

Since South African President F.W. de Klerk assumed power in August, he has allowed opposition groups to protest openly and has urged negotiations on a new constitution that would include a political voice for the black majority.



Renoir up for auction

The widow of investor-publisher John Hay Whitney will reduce a Renoir painting for sale for an estimated \$40 to \$50 million. Sotheby's auction house said Tuesday.

Pierre-Auguste Renoir's 1876 work, acclaimed for its light, shadow and movement, depicts the Moulin de la Galette, a French outdoor dance hall in Montmartre frequented by avant-garde writers, painters and actors.

It shows a model named Estelle sitting at a table with three of Renoir's friends, including biographer Georges Riviere, who later described the painting as "a page of history, a precious moment of Paris life depicted with rigorous examination."

The painting was owned for 60 years by Whitney and his wife, Betsey Cushing Whitney. (Reuter wirephoto)

Zogby explained, "thanks to an agreement between the census Bureau and AAII, a category will be derived from any and all codes that are affiliated with the Arabic-speaking world."

Zogby said that this means that while individuals may self-identify themselves as Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, Egyptian, Arab or Arab-American, these ethnicities will remain categorized into separate nationalities and will be folded into a generic category called Arab for purposes of the official reports issued by the Census Bureau.

This is an important change from 1980 when the first data on ancestry was published. Then, only the largest ancestry group (most European) were able to be specified in official reports with breakdowns by city, congressional district, county etc.

Because the Arabic-speaking ancestry is individually are relatively small, they were not specified in the publications that provide the most interesting demographic analysis.

According to Zogby, the census results are useful to the Arab-American community in at least four ways:

First, the ancestry question provides Arab-Americans with the only official count of the Arab-American population.

Second, the census tracks languages spoken in the home which can provide valuable information about what percentage of Arab-Americans speak Arabic and where.

Third, important data on immigration history and citizenship are available through the census, helping in the study of the breakdown of the community by citizenship status, place of birth and length of time in the US.

Baby boom after Hugo

GASTONIA, North Carolina, Jan 17, (AP): Gaston County is due for a baby boom in June and early July — about nine months after Hurricane Hugo hit, doctors say.

The storm knocked out power and essentially shut down the county when it struck in September.

"Any time there is a natural disaster or snowstorm or anything that keeps people at their homes, this happens," said Deborah Hudson, business manager for Gaston Gynecology and Obstetrics, one of two prenatal centers in the county.

By mid-January, the center already surpassed the number of patients that showed up in December.

Soldiers appear in court

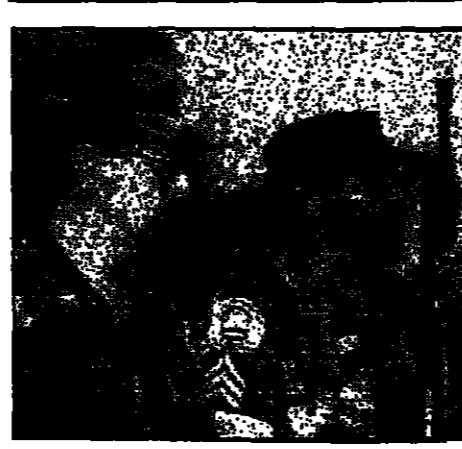
Jesuits massacre case

SAN SALVADOR, Jan 17, (AP): An army colonel, three lieutenants and four soldiers implicated in the massacre of six Roman Catholic priests were brought before a civilian judge yesterday to make statements about the slayings.

Col. Guillermo Benavides arrived at the office of 4th penal court Judge Ricardo Zamora in dress uniform and surrounded by police. He made no comment to reporters, who were kept several yards (metres) away.

The lieutenants, two sergeants, a corporal and a private, also implicated in the Nov 16 massacre, arrived shortly afterward. A ninth soldier, who allegedly took part in the slayings deserted last month and is a fugitive.

Zamora has 72 hours to decide if there is enough evidence to charge the men and hold them for trial.



Benavides is led into the county house to give his formal declaration. (Reuter wirephoto)

President Alfredo Cristiani on Saturday said the men were the prime suspects in the massacre, which also took the life of a cook and her 15-year-old daughter.

The suspects have been under arrest at several unidentified military and police garrisons in the capital.

Benavides denies ordering the slayings, Cristiani said.

"Good Morning America," an US television news programme.

"But the junior officers involved expressly have testified that they received a direct order from him," Cristiani said.

All the suspects except the colonel are members of the elite Atlacatl Infantry Battalion. The Atlacatl unit was situated the military college at the time of the massacre. Benavides is director of the college.

gilio Barco's closest aide, German Monroy.

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In other developments, police dismantled a car bomb made up of half a ton of dynamite.

Hou fills gap left by China dissidents

BEIJING, Jan 17, (AP): With China's best-known dissidents jailed, exiled or in hiding, a popular folk singer is trying to fill the void with protest songs and calls for democracy.

"You could say I'm the world's stupidest, most amateur dissident," Hou Dejian said, laughing and shaking his head in mock self-ridicule during a recent interview.

"I'm not a politician. I had friends who were dissidents, but ... I'm a professional musician," he said, with elaborate emphasis. "But right now I'm trying to figure out how to become a passive dissident."

Hou, 33, is no ordinary mainland musician: He is the Taiwanese-born son of a nationalist soldier who fought against the communists. Seeking his roots, Hou visited the communist mainland as an established star in 1983 and decided to stay.

The darling of the government, he was allowed to keep living like a star, with two homes and two cars, one a maroon Mercedes-Benz.

The skinny, chain-smoking Hou, usually clad in black leather jacket and boots, is famous among Chinese on the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong for his Bob Dylan-influenced songs about social concerns, such as the endangered pandas, and about the worries of youth.

Strike

He became known to Westerners in the final days of China's student democracy movement last spring, when he and three friends began a hunger strike in Tiananmen Square to protest martial law. Many students were already leaving the square out of fear, and the hunger strike infused the movement with new spirit.

Less than 48 hours later on June 4, when tanks poised on the square's edge, Hou negotiated with the army to allow the remaining students to retreat peacefully, possibly saving hundreds of lives.

Now, he is again trying to keep the spirit of democracy alive, taking advantage of his relative freedom as a defector.

"I can say more than ordinary Chinese," Hou said. So he has begun "making a little noise," giving interviews to foreign journalists and singing for them the half-dozen songs he has written about the democracy movement — songs he knows no mainland company can record now.

"Friends who love freedom, spread our wings," one ballad goes. "Listen carefully, no one can lie again. Open your eyes, no one can twist the truth again."

Hou has not worked out any philosophy of government or theories about the relative merits of communism and capitalism. "I'm not a political scientist. I say, ask all the Chinese people and then decide."

Alternative

All he wants is provide an alternative to the Communist Party voice that has filled the airwaves and newspapers since June with relentless condemnation of the democracy movement.

"Because you can't hear other voices that doesn't mean there's stability," he said, picking words carefully while he picked out chords on his electric guitar.

"We have an ancient tyrant culture. A real change would mean changing the slaves, not changing the tyrant. Although it's been slow, there is change. Most people in Beijing took part in the movement and ... they are not as afraid as before."

Hou said the movement wiped away his feeling of being an outsider on the mainland.

That is why during the summer, when he hid from police for more than two months in the Australian embassy in Beijing, he did not apply for asylum. He came out Aug 15, as soon as the Foreign Ministry promised he would not be arrested or deported.

Deal

Some Chinese suspected a deal when he told government television two days later that he did not see anyone killed in Tiananmen Square during the June 3-4 army attack.

Authorities insist no one died in the square, while acknowledging about 300 deaths elsewhere in the city. Many Chinese say the toll was much higher, and Western security sources say the toll may have been 3,000.

But Hou said he made no deal. "I can only say I didn't see anyone die. That doesn't prove no one died."

Two of the three friends who went on hunger strike with Hou remain jailed. One was freed in December.

Hou was taunted by police for a while, and has not been allowed so far to travel inside China or to Australia, where his wife, pop singer Cheng Lin, fled in June.

Suu Kyi barred from Burmese polls

Crowds protest Election Commission's decision

RANGOON, Jan 17, (UPI): The Rangoon Election Commission has decided to bar arrested opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi from running for parliament in general elections, sparking brief protests in the capital, the panel announced today.

Armed troops guarded the capital today after Suu Kyi was barred from running in polls, Western diplomats said.

A Western diplomat reached by telephone from Bangkok said large numbers of soldiers who had entered the capital in trucks the previous day were guarding areas including City Hall, where the election commission has offices.

The Rangoon division decision reverses a township level commission's ruling a week ago that would have allowed the charismatic Aung San Suu Kyi, the 44-year-old daughter of Burmese independence hero Gen. Aung San, to run for Parliament in the general

elections scheduled for May 27.

The commission's decision has raised doubts that the military government will keep its promise to hold free and fair multi-party elections, said an unnamed diplomat contacted by telephone in Rangoon.

The township level decision was appealed by the National Unity Party, which was formed by the military and ruled Burma from 1962 to 1988. The military seized direct power in Sept 1988 from the faltering one-party government amid nationwide demonstrations demanding democracy.

The military crushed the protests, killing at least 500 people according to a military count. Diplomats say more than 1,000 people were killed.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since July 20 for criticising the military.

The division level commission agreed with the National Unity Party appeal that Aung

Suu Kyi had given up her right to run for Parliament by marrying a Briton and residing in Britain.

It also charged that she and her party, the National League for Democracy, violated election laws by maintaining links with underground insurgent groups.

A spokesman for the League said the division-level decision would be appealed to the Central Election Commission, whose decision is final.

A crowd gathered at the city hall prior to the latest ruling, witnesses said. Troops and police guarding the city hall quickly dispersed the crowd and restored order, they said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Additional troops and armed police moved into the city centre to guard key points and main streets.

In campaigns around the country, Aung San Suu Kyi displayed growing popularity.



Suu Kyi addressing a meeting before her arrest in July 1989. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

All you need is love: The Beatles told the world that all you need is love, but Paul McCartney says he and songwriting partner John Lennon took a much more mercenary view when they composed their classic '60s song.

"Somebody said to me, 'the Beatles were anti-American.' That's a huge myth," McCartney says in the Feb 8 issue of Rolling Stone magazine. "John and I literally used to sit down and say, 'now let's write a money-making song.'

McCartney, 47, is currently in the middle of his first tour since 1975. But he says the "Flowers in the Dirt" shows are not an attempt to claim the Beatles legacy for himself. (AP) . . .

Quake jolts Australia: An earthquake of 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted the remote state of Western Australia on Wednesday, less than one month after a tremor shook the eastern seaboard, killing 12 people in the city of Newcastle.

Officials said Wednesday's quake had the same strength as the one that hit Dec 28 in Australia's first fatal earthquake. Newcastle, an industrial centre and the country's sixth largest city with 500,000 people, is still assessing the damage.

Hundreds of buildings in the city centre suffered structural damage from the quake. (AP)



La Croix collection

Designer Christian La Croix puts finishing touches to his high fashion collection which will be presented during the spring-summer Paris fashion shows on Jan 21. (Reuter wirephoto)



Remember Profumo

The Princess of Wales chats with former British cabinet minister John Profumo (2nd from right) during a visit to Toynbee Hall care and leisure centre for the elderly run by the Universities Settlement in east London. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tokyo's first snow fall: For a metropolis that normally hums along like a well-tuned engine, Tokyo had the brakes put on by a few inches (centimetres) of unaccustomed snow.

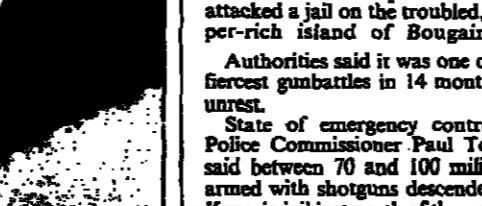
Fast became slow. Safe became slippery. The international airport closed for two hours. Bullet trains performed like poggies. You couldn't set your watch according to the normally tick-tock computer trains Tuesday; they were running late.

Snowball fights raged in schoolsyards Wednesday morning as this city of 12 million, clogged by almost-freezing temperatures and with a light blanket of snow glistening in the sun, approached normal speed after a day on tiptoe. (AP)

China to help separated couples: China plans to amend its unpopular practice of forcing some married couples to live and work in different cities, an official daily said Wednesday.

The China Daily said the state council, China's cabinet, has worked out a policy to help the 300,000 state-employed couples now living apart get back together.

Senior intellectuals will be given priority for reunions between married persons, it said. People with doctorates or who are involved in high technology jobs will automatically qualify for relocation. (AP)



Rebels kill 11 in Bougainville

PONT MORESBY, Australia: Jan 17, (AP): Six people died and 11 were wounded when separatist rebels attacked a jail on the troubled, copper-rich island of Bougainville.

Authorities said it was one of the fiercest gunbattles in 14 months of unrest.

State of emergency controller, Police Commissioner Paul Tobian said between 70 and 100 militants armed with shotguns descended on Kuituna jail just north of the provincial capital Arawa before dawn.

Australian Associated Press said four warden, a civilian and a child died. The wounded included eight wardens and three prisoners. Most of the jail was destroyed. There was no official explanation for why the jail was attacked.

Government radio said the committee hadn't decided whether to ban the territory's two top judges and all of its legislators from possessing the right to live abroad.

Under the basic law, Hong Kong's top officials already are prohibited from holding a foreign pass-

Accord on Cambodia

Big five to push truce, free polls

PARIS, Jan 17, (AP): The permanent members of the UN Security Council have agreed to move quickly to seek a ceasefire and free elections in Cambodia under UN administration.

The five countries concluded two days of meetings last night by setting out a 16-point summary of principles focused on "an enhanced UN role" in bringing peace to Cambodia.

Representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France are to meet again in New York in about two weeks, then again in late February in Paris to push the peace programme ahead as quickly as possible.

"We're at least going to make a strong try at it," said a senior US official briefing reporters on condition of anonymity. "We're not talking about a process that would take several years, but it's clear it will take several months."

The five countries said a special representative of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar would be in charge of United Nations activities in Cambodia during an unspecified transition period leading to elections.

They called for "an effective UN presence" to assure internal security, apparently a reference to a peacekeeping force. It says the elections "must be conducted under direct, UN administration" that would "assure a neutral political environment in which no party would be advantaged."

"An enduring peace can only be achieved through a comprehensive political settlement, including the verified withdrawal of foreign forces, a ceasefire and the cessation of outside military assistance," the statement said.

"The goal should be self-determination for the Cambodian people through free, fair and democratic elections."

Points set out in the statement do not deal with some of the most difficult issues — such as whether to dissolve the existing administration of Premier Hun Sen's Vietnamese-backed government or what to do about Cambodia's United Nations seat, currently held by the three-party guerrilla coalition led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The statement does not even refer directly to Hun Sen, Sihanouk or the Khmer Rouge. Cambodia's brutal masters from 1975 to 1978 who are now allied with Sihanouk and another non-communist resistance group.

They added that the number would continue to increase as the hard-line communists in Pyongyngang steps up a crackdown following sweeping moves toward greater democracy in Eastern Europe.

The reports said South Korean intelligence authorities had verified through defectors and "other sources" that there has been a sharp increase in the number of concentration camps and political prisoners in North Korea in recent years.

The situation in North Korea is much worse than that of the notorious Stalinist era in the Soviet Union, the Yonhap news agency quoted one official as saying.

North Korea conducted a nationwide security check on its people in the late 1960s and banished tens of thousands of "dangerous figures" to concentration camps in remote mountain areas, the reports quoted the officials as saying.

"There were eight such camps in 1982 but the number has increased to 12, and the number of prisoners held there also increased from 103,000 to 152,000," the reports quoted one official as saying.

Among those kept in the "dictatorial districts" are several former



US soldiers gaze at pictures of mine fields and obstacles alleged to be built in the demilitarized zone that divides North and South Korea. (Reuter wirephoto)

Gulags hold 150,000 in NK

Seoul abusing rights

SEOUL, Jan 17, (AP): North Korea is holding more than 150,000 political prisoners in concentration camps called "dictatorial districts," according to South Korean press reports today.

The number of political prisoners in North Korea amounts to 0.7 per cent of its population of 21 million, said the reports in most newspapers in Seoul.

They added that the number would continue to increase as the hard-line communists in Pyongyngang steps up a crackdown following sweeping moves toward greater democracy in Eastern Europe.

The reports said South Korean intelligence authorities had verified through defectors and "other sources" that there has been a sharp increase in the number of concentration camps and political prisoners in North Korea in recent years.

"The situation in North Korea is much worse than that of the notorious Stalinist era in the Soviet Union," said one East European diplomat.

Kim permeates every aspect of North Korean life.

In another report Amnesty International said mass arrests and the reported torture of prisoners have reversed a two-year trend of human rights improvements in South Korea.

The international human rights group said in a report that 800 political and trade union activists have been arrested in major cities in a crackdown on political opposition by President Roh Tae-woo's government.

Among those kept in the "dictatorial districts" are several former

China to trade dissident for loan

TOKYO, Jan 17, (Reuter): Washington and Beijing are working on a deal that could allow a top dissident to leave China in exchange for the resumption of much needed World Bank loans, diplomats and political analysts said today.

US diplomats declined to comment, but an Asian diplomat said Beijing would agree to let astrophysicist Fang Lizhi and his wife receive "asylum" in the US embassy shortly after a military crackdown on student-led pro-democracy demonstrations last June, enabling the couple to escape arrest and possible execution.

The deal was being worked on by diplomats in Beijing and Washington, diplomats in Tokyo said.

The deal was being worked on by diplomats in Beijing and Washington, diplomats in Tokyo said. The talks were fraught with difficulty due to mutual suspicion and a desire by both sides to preserve face, analysts said.

The diplomats declined to say when the talks began.

Top astrophysicist Fang Lizhi and his wife received "asylum" in the US embassy shortly after a military crackdown on student-led pro-democracy demonstrations last June, enabling the couple to escape arrest and possible execution.

Beijing has denounced Fang as a wanted criminal and repeatedly called on the embassy to hand him over to police. His presence in the embassy has become a major obstacle to improvement in Sino-US relations.

A US diplomat in Tokyo could not comment on Fang's situation, other than describing it as "very sensitive." US diplomats in Beijing have also declined to comment.

A Japanese official said the deal could be scuppered by the US Congress, which convenes later this month and is likely to pass tough legislation that would make a resumption of loans more difficult by imposing stiff conditions.

Loans from the World Bank and Western governments were frozen last June to protest against the military crackdown, which was followed by a half-on most commercial lending.

Japanese banks, the biggest lenders, have said they will not resume loans before the World Bank for fear of upsetting US congressional and public opinion.

Gang fight in HK camps

HONG KONG, Jan 17. (Reuters): A Vietnamese man has been killed in a gang fight in the latest outbreak of violence at Hong Kong's crowded refugee camps and aid workers warn conditions there are rapidly deteriorating.

Police said today that a 39-year-old man was killed and nine other injured when a gang of 20 armed with makeshift weapons burst into a hut at Whitehead camp during the night.

"About 20 masked people rushed into camp number four with weapons and attacked the people inside," a police spokesman said.

The latest violence broke out as international aid workers warned that conditions in the camps were deteriorating rapidly under the continued threat of forced repatriation.

"It's difficult to explain the mood of desperation that has set in. Morale has been plummeting in recent weeks and things like this are going to be more frequent," one camp worker said.

Hong Kong, which has 56,000 boat people jammed into its camps, requires 43,000 of them as potential illegal immigrants and has started a policy of forced repatriation.

The abrupt deportation of 51 last December under a secret deal with Hong Kong sent shock waves through the camps.

"Most people have been here so long they have become just institutionalized. You get someone who make the most of their lives but there are some who just give up," the worker said.

Another worker said the biggest social problem now was the formation of gangs who terrorized other camp inmates.

"The guards and the police can do little to stop them. After four o'clock in the afternoon some of these places just become a no-go area. You can hear the sound of makeshift weapons being sharpened, on stones, in the afternoon," the worker said.

Three more bodies of suspected Vietnamese boat people have been found in southern Thailand, bringing to 14 the number believed killed by pirates, a police office said today.

The bodies of two women and one boy were found Tuesday on the coast of the Tha Sala district in Nakhon Sri Thammarat province, the same area where the other bodies were discovered, said district police chief Lt. Col. Ratanak Kanjanachot.

Like the 11 bodies found earlier Sunday and Monday, each victim had a nylon rope tied around the neck. They had been dead for about 10 days, he said.

The two women appeared to be about 20 years old and the boy between 5 and 7, the officer said in a telephone interview.

Favourable winds and Malaysia's policy of pushing refugees back out to sea are behind sharply increasing numbers of Vietnamese boat people reaching Thailand in the past two months, a senior Thai security official said today.

"More Vietnamese boat people entered Thailand at the end of last year because the monsoon season was over and perhaps because Malaysia forced them back to sea," said Sawasdhi Daranon, a director of special affairs of the national security council.

A 28-nation conference to discuss whether thousands of Vietnamese boat people should be sent home from Hong Kong has finally been set for next week, the UN refugee agency said today, in Geneva.

The office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is sponsoring the two-day conference, said the steering committee dealing with the boat people issue would meet in Geneva on Tuesday and Wednesday.

US disapproval of Britain's policy of forcibly deporting some Vietnamese asylum-seekers has caused several postponements of the committee meeting. The UNHCR would not say what had now made the meeting possible.

Police overpowered man who tried to hijack American plane to Cuba

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan 17. (AP): A man who had a bomb took over an America West airliner and demanded to be flown to Cuba, but was arrested soon after the plane made an emergency landing in Austin, police said.

No one was seriously injured last night during flight 727 from Houston to Las Vegas or the arrest at Robert Mueller municipal airport, officials said.

Police overpowered the man aboard the

Questions raised over killing of Ire robbers

DUBLIN, Jan 17. (Agencies): Robbers never once opened fire when Irish police foiled a bank raid that ended with one robber dead and eight people injured, a ballistics report revealed today.

The report, which could be deeply embarrassing for the Irish police, showed that all the injuries were caused by police weapons. The injured included three policemen.

One of the raiders, thought to be Dublin criminals rather than Irish Republican Army guerrillas on a fund-raising mission, died in hospital after Friday's raid at a bank in Athy, southwest of Dublin.

The next day, British undercover soldiers shot dead three petty criminals robbing a betting shop in Belfast.

The Dublin government asked for a report on that shooting from the British

government and Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey expressed "very serious disquiet and misgivings".

The Athy incident began when police surrounded the bank with the raiders, staff and customers inside. Detectives believe police began shooting when one of the gang appeared at the door with a bank employee and threatened to "blow his head off."

After the shooting, five of the raiders

guns were recovered but ballistic tests showed none had been fired.

Dublin police have now launched a top-level internal inquiry. Two of the gang, a passer-by, a bank teller and a bank porter received bullet wounds, as did the three policemen.

Two plainclothes British soldiers who foiled a weekend robbery in Belfast left behind three bodies and a tangle of questions. Did they give a warn-

ing? Why were they there? To what unit did they belong?

Most crucially, witnesses claimed the soldiers kept firing after the masked robbers lay wounded on the sidewalk. And once again, the British government was denying that its forces in Northern Ireland have orders to shoot to kill.

"I find it hard to believe that reasonable force was used," the Rev. Paddy

McWilliams said yesterday at the funeral of one of the victims.

"There is no shoot-to-kill policy for the security forces in Northern Ireland," said Brian Mawhinney, a high-ranking British official in the province.

Such allegations go back to 1982, when six people were killed in three separate police operations over a three-week period.

US troops to quit if Europe wants

East-West military talks

VIENNA, Jan 17. (Agencies): US joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell, opening informal talks between Eastern and Western military leaders, said those on both sides of the crumpling iron curtain agree "the era of confrontation must end."

General Powell, head of a large US delegation to the three-week conference, also said yesterday that American troops stationed in Europe are not "sacrosanct."

"American troops are not occupying forces," he said, noting that President Bush has said US forces will stay in Europe only as long as the governments and people of Western Europe welcome them and Nato thinks they are needed.

The general's remarks came as the talks on security and defence began behind closed doors in Vienna's Hofburg Palace between chiefs of staff from 35 nations, including members of Nato and the Warsaw Pact as well as non-aligned European countries.

The unprecedented gathering billed as a seminar on "confidence and security building measures" in Europe, is intended as an exercise in informal frankness aimed at making progress on European arms reductions.

But the seminar is not a formal negotiation and specific results are not expected. There will be no concluding document.

Powell's Soviet counterpart, Chief of staff Gen. Michail Moiseyev, said he is convinced the United States and Nato are no longer aggressively inclined toward the Soviet Union and its allies, but that "the military threat has not disappeared."

The Soviet commander said Moscow had gradually adopted a policy that "rejects wars as a means of settling international disputes and contradictions — economic, political, ideological, or any other."

War has become "obsolete, unacceptable and inadmissible" in the "world of nuclear deterrence," he said.

Another high-ranking Soviet general acknowledged today that the political changes among Moscow's East European allies will affect the Warsaw Pact military alliance.

"There will be changes in structure," said Gen. Nikolaj Chervov, head of the directorate of the Soviet general staff.

But he said the final form of those changes hasn't been decided.

Powell also indicated the threat of East-West military confrontation was diminishing.

"East and West have reached a common conclusion that the era of confrontation in Europe must end," Powell said. "Sharing in this vision, we can all work together to usher in a new era of European peace, security and freedom."

He said changes in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, along with broad arms reductions, negotiations and East-West summitry, have brought hope to the world.

Nato, he said, was "enormously heartened by the declarations and initial evidence of an historic redefinition and restructuring of Warsaw Pact doctrine and forces to a defensive posture."

Powell said that brought the East Bloc into line with US military policy, which was also defensive.

"It is inconceivable that an alliance whose posture and purposes are subject to such intense public scrutiny in 16 democratic societies could ever undertake aggressive military action," Powell said.

He said the United States does "not impose our views or military strategies on the alliance. Consultations are fundamental to the existence" of Nato ... our disagreements take place under the glare of public scrutiny."

Powell said there was no reason why military power in Europe should remain as it had for 40 years. Headed the United States hoped one day that military demands on European alliances would be greatly diminished.



Real spring in Prague

Alexander Dubcek (right), Czechoslovak Parliament Speaker, gestures with European Commission President Jacques Delors (left) at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, during the 1989 Prague Spring, attended after a year gap where he received a human rights prize. (Reuter wirephoto)

Man blown off when assembling book bomb

LONDON, Jan 17. (AP): An African who lived in Lebanon died when a book bomb he was assembling in a London hotel room exploded, an inquest was told yesterday.

Detective superintendent Christopher Bird of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad said there was "a him" the man, Moustapha Maleh, 21, may have been associated with Middle East terrorists.

"We know he was a Muslim, but the target and the reason for the bomb is not clear," he said, adding forensic tests revealed the device was a book bomb.

The bomb exploded in a room in the Beverley

House Hotel, in London's Paddington District, on Aug 3. A second explosion believed to have been caused by an aerosol can occurred shortly afterwards.

Recording a verdict of accidental death, West minister coroner Dr Paul Knapman said: "I find it difficult to express any sympathy to this man."

Bird said that Maleh was born in Conakry, Guinea, held a French passport, and lived with his parents in a village just outside Beirut, Lebanon.

He said Maleh left the village in July, telling his parents he was going to look for work in Beirut.

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EMF hazard exaggerated: Shihab Eldin

No scientific evidence available so far

KUWAIT, Jan 17. (Kuna): A leading Kuwaiti scientist argues that health hazards associated with exposure to power lines electromagnetic field (EMF) have been exaggerated and dramatised by the media and he strongly contends the association is not necessarily causal.

Dr Adnand Shihab Eldin, a principal research scientist at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, agrees, however, that there is "a theoretical possibility that a small cancer risk could stem from exposure to EMF."

Shihab Eldin offered the analysis when approached by Kuna to comment on a series of articles published last June in the American weekly magazine, "The New Yorker," which maintained that EMF exposure could be significantly hazardous to human health.

Referring to the reported cancer risk in cases of exposure to EMF, Shihab Eldin stresses in his analysis that "the likelihood of such a theoretical possibility is small enough not to warrant any fears, concerns or additional actions at present."

He says further research is needed and is being carried out to better understand and resolve the inconclusive findings of the few epidemiological studies that showed weak association between EMF exposure and cancer.

Claims of such hazards, he emphasised, are not proven or supported by the totality of the scientific evidence, research or known principles available so far.

Shihab Eldin, a former director-general of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, holds a Ph.D. in nuclear physics and engineering from the University of California at Berkeley (1970). He was a visiting scholar at Harvard, Cern and Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in (1987-1989). He is the author of many books, papers, articles and reports in the field of nuclear physics, radiation effects and energy.

Warnings

"The New Yorker's" articles were not the first to caution against hazards of significant risk to the public from exposure to EMF near power lines or insides homes, as numerous reports had appeared in the media issuing similar warnings.

Shihab Eldin said the risks referred to "The New Yorker" articles by Paul Broder, were based primarily on "impari-ally selected few epidemiological studies that have shown some weak association between incidence rates of leukemia and other cancer and exposures, among certain groups of children and adults to weak electric and magnetic fields."

The articles overstressed the importance, and the validity of these few early studies while discrediting or obscuring all contrary evidence and results from a host of other epidemiological and experimental studies.

The Kuwaiti scientist also noted that the articles tinged the scientific presentations

with a dramatic and novel-like narration of proceedings of few court cases brought against power companies, which made the articles read "like a script for a new Hollywood movie."

Emphasising that association between EMF exposure and risk, while necessary, is not sufficient to prove "casualty," Shihab Eldin said a number of other criteria must be satisfied for an association to be causal.

Among these are: strength of association, consistency, temporality (cause should precede effect in time) biological gradient, biological plausibility and coherence and experimental evidence.

So far, none of these criteria, he went on, has been shown to be valid in case of EMF hazards.

Most epidemiological studies carried out have shown no association between EMF exposure and cancer incidence rate outside the normal random statistical fluctuation within the confidence limits of these studies, he says.

Shihab Eldin, citing his review of relevant scientific literature and private communications with key specialists and experts concludes that:

"There is no proof that electromagnetic fields generated by overhead power lines or domestic transmission lines and appliances operating within regularity links and/or manufacturer specification are harmful to human health."

The epidemiological and experimental studies have failed so far to show any

evidence linking EMFs with cancer neither among adults nor among children exposed. They have also failed to prove the most basic requirements of toxicology and carcinogenesis - namely, the existence of dose-response relationship.

There is, however, still a very slight possibility, based on few inconclusive epidemiological studies showing very weak association, that some people under some circumstances may be exposed to some additional small hazards from EMFs exposure. We emphasise: small possibility of small effect exist, but very improbable.

"We must nevertheless be prudent and wise. Present regulation regarding power line zones, wiring of transmission line and appliance specifications, should be followed and enforced, but unwarranted fear or panic should be avoided. We must remember, after all, that life is an electro-chemical process, that all living systems, including our bodies, depend for their proper functioning on the interaction between chemical processes and electric currents."

"The internal body EMFs at the cell boundaries far exceed those resulting from exposure to power lines, transmission lines and appliances, properly used. The risk to society from electrocution, resulting from misuse and malfunctioning of electrical appliances and wiring, will most likely prove to far exceed the risk from exposure to EMFs from power lines and appliances, if such risk is ever discovered and proven."

Transplant law awareness essential, says specialist

Proposal to reduce impediments

A KIDNEY specialist at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital said that 100 to 150 patients die in Kuwait every year due to kidney failure and added that 50 to 75 donors per year could positively reduce the death rate due to kidney failure.

Speaking at a seminar held at the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR), Dr. Mustafa Al Musawi said that patients die after one week of contracting complete kidney failure.

He defined total kidney failure as a state when both kidneys of the patient fail to function. Such patients, he said need dialysis of both kidneys at least three times a week — on each occasion the patient has to be hospitalised for four hours. Dialysis is not a cure, but only rids the body of accumulated toxins and prolongs life. Transplants are the only alternative, the doctor said.

Dr Bader Al-Yacoub from the Faculty of Law of Kuwait University said that Kuwaiti laws cope with latest scientific and medical developments in the field of organ transplants. The laws allow and encourage the donation of organs according to Muslim scholars and specialised Islamic bodies, provided these donations are not commercialised. Further, organs cannot be donated, if the act would harm the health of the donor. A law was issued in 1987 to organise the issue of donation of human organs, Yacoub said.

He pointed out that it was legally approved, with the conditional consent of three persons, to take an organ from a deceased person to replace the malfunctioning organ of an person whose life could be at stake, which remained to be officially endorsed by the Ministry of Public Health.

Speaking at a symposium on "Transplants and cerebral death" organised by the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. George Aboua has stressed the need for acquainting doctors and people with the provisions and articles of the transplants law.

Dr Bader Al-Yacoub, later on reviewed the laws enforced on transplants in Kuwait and compared them to laws of similar function enforced in foreign countries, stressing that Kuwait kept pace with the technological advancements in the world by legislating special statutes on transplants, basically derived from the Islamic Sharia.

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Speaking on another medical issue, Dr. Marwan Suliman Al Mutawa, director of the first psychiatry centre to be established in Kuwait said that most people here have formulated wrong concepts of psychiatry and the methods of treatment.

He stressed the need for setting up a special committee to superv-

ise the implementation of regulations on transplants to facilitate the transfer of donated parts and overcome the potential impediments.

Dr Ojail Nashmi, dean of the College of Islamic Studies, said that it was possible from the Islamic viewpoint to use a human part from the same person to treat another diseased area, on the condition that the rates of success and benefit were higher than those of risk and failure, and that the operation would not psychologically mar the person involved.

He added that it was equally possible to use an organ from a person to another if the used part could biologically or naturally be replenished in the giver's body, such as blood, skin and others.

He pointed out that it was also possible to take a safe organ in a diseased part which was meant for extraction such as the cornea of a cancerous eye that needed surgical removal.

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ise the increase in education, travelling abroad and being exposed to advanced concepts, this mistaken concept is gradually being replaced with a level of confidence in this form of treatment.

He indicated that psychiatry is a specialised science and treats patients on a personal basis in an effort to provide them with guidance and assistance.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that the centre's first priority is to get the patient to confide in his psychiatrist and stressed that all information is kept strictly confidential.

The official said that to assist members of society to better appreciate the benefits of psychiatry, more efforts should be made by the mass media to enlighten the population of the efficacy of this branch of science.

The centre introduces several services directed towards providing various forms of assistance related to problems of the mind. The centre conducts various IQ tests to indicate educational problems. Other services include providing social advice to married couples.

The official said that it is essential to reach complete co-ordination between the centre and various work establishments as the centre prepares studies and researches in the field of mental stresses of employees and provides engagements with advice to improve employees' performance.

Meanwhile, Public Health Minister undersecretary Dr. Nael Al-Nageeb has said that senior positions vacated state positions recently will be filled by highly qualified people from the existing staff.

He held a legal duty that the positions vacated by the resignation of the ministry's assistant undersecretary for Pharmaceutical Affairs and Medical Supplies Ibrahim Al Muda and the assistant undersecretary for Administrative and Legal Affairs Abdul Karim Al Saeed fall within the above category.

Premier chairs planning meeting

KUWAIT, Jan 17. (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdalla Al Salem Al Sabah today presided over the third meeting of the Supreme council for Planning.

The council's Secretary General Fuaid Mulla Hussein said the council discussed a project on establishment of a petrochemical complex. He said the project was referred to the council by HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Chairman of the Council.

In a statement to Kuna, Hussein said chairman of the economic committee thanked HH for referring the project to the council for consideration, adding it was in line with the country's long-term development strategy.

He said the council decided to adjourn discussion of the issue to another meeting to listen to the opinion of Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah.

Hussein said chairman of the social services committee presented a report on the impact of alien phenomena on the Kuwaiti community, adding the council had asked the committee to conduct more research on the issue with the aim of introducing some amendments prior to discussing it in the upcoming session.

He said the committee on demographic policies and development of human resources submitted a report based on a long-term strategy with the aim of increasing productivity, adjusting the country's population and preserving the identity of the community.

The council's secretary general said HH the Crown Prince and premier had hailed the positive recommendations contained in the report and reiterated the government's keenness on developing human resources.

He added that the council endorsed the strategy which would be referred to the council of ministers for final approval.

Only weeds

KUWAIT, Jan 17. (Kuna): The Kuwaiti coasts are free of oil pollution, the Environment Protection Council said here today.

Secretary of the council Ibrahim Mohammed Hadi told Kuna that what citizens see floating on the coastal waters is but brown weeds that are of the shape of small balls.



PAAET workshop

The Vocational Development Centre at Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) organised a workshop at Kuwait Sheraton Hotel from 5:00 to 8:00 pm Tuesday for the demonstration of "DACUM" which is identified as a new system for developing applied methods.

The workshop, which was patronised by the Director General of PAAET, Dr. Abdurahman Al Muhammed, was attended by Dr. Pop Northorn from USA and a number of senior officials.

Dr. Northorn lectured at the workshop and demonstrated the specifications of the new system before the many people who were gathered there. The lecturer answered questions from the floor at the conclusion of the demonstration.

From the courts

Court upholds death verdict in murder case

THE Court of Higher Appeals has upheld the verdict of death issued by the Criminal Court against a man charged with the premeditated murder of his mistress's husband, but, reduced the sentence of the woman to life imprisonment.

The court was told that the mistress opened the front door of her house and permitted her paramour to enter the bedroom of her husband where he was fast asleep. The accused then stabbed the husband to death.

On being apprehended, he confessed that he had sold the gold for half its normal value. The jewellery was recovered in full and returned to the owner.

Wife murder

THE Criminal Court has adjourned the case of a man charged with killing his wife for refusing to sleep with him pending a psychiatric evaluation.

Gold thief

SECURITYMEN in Salimya have arrested a Kuwaiti youth on charges of absconding with KD3,000 worth of gold ornaments.

The court was told that the suspect had visited a jeweller and asked if he could take some gold samples to show his old mother. The jeweller agreed and sent one of his employees with the accused.

However, on the way, the youth pretended that something was wrong with his car and asked the boy to assist him. Immediately, as the boy alighted

from the car, the suspect drove off.

On being apprehended, he confessed that he had sold the gold for half its normal value. The jewellery was recovered in full and returned to the owner.

Smuggling

THE Police Patrol Command in Jahra last Wednesday successfully foiled an attempt to smuggle into the country through the Kuwait-Iraqi border.

The patrol chased the driver of a Nissan Gloria car who refused an order to stop and had to resort to shooting the tyres of the suspect's car to bring it to a halt.

On investigation the accused and his companion were found to be carrying 279 bottles of liquor, two medical syringes, one carton of drug pills, and two magazines of 59 bullets.

The accused and the contraband have been referred to investigative authorities.

The court acquitted the three

other artists involved, Khaled Al Nafisi, Saad Al Faraj and Mohammad Al Sharje.

THE Court of Higher Appeals has upheld the verdict of death issued by the Criminal Court against a man charged with the premeditated murder of his mistress's husband, but, reduced the sentence of the woman to life imprisonment.

The court was told that the mistress opened the front door of her house and permitted her paramour to enter the bedroom of her husband where he was fast asleep. The accused then stabbed the husband to death.

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Wife murder

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Labourers decry abuse of human rights

State implementing measures to redress issue

By Lima Al Khalafawi

Arab Times Staff

"NO one in the whole world turns his employee into a slave and ruins his life for the sake of a little amount of money and sponsor should have sympathy for their employees," said a Sri Lankan worker A.S. Surasna.

Surasna, who was duped by a recruitment agency in his country, told the Arab Times that he is facing hard times with his sponsor.

Surasna's personal documents were confiscated by his sponsor and he was not paid for several months. The worker who is a qualified technician, was cheated by the recruitment agency who sent him to Kuwait as a driver without telling him about his job here. Surasna was shocked when he came here and found out that he would be working as a driver at his employer's house.

Being a inept as a driver, Surasna says he was beaten by his sponsor. The frightened worker said that his embassy is negotiating with his sponsor to sort out the problem and send him back home while his employer insists on making him work for his fare.

"My sponsor beat me several times and refused to give me my passport, because I refused to work with him as a driver," Surasna said. Funds were raised by his community to help and send him back home. Surasna concluded that being brought here at a low wage of KD40 should not be misinterpreted to mean that he is a very cheap human being.

"This KD40 does not give my sponsor the right to beat me. Any civilised human being should send his employee back home if things do not come up to his expectations," he added.

A 28-year-old Sri Lankan worker Rajan Adhuta who works for a private company said that he came here through a recruitment agency and is paid KD30 per month. Since his arrival he was forced to sign another contract and was paid only KD25 plus accommodation. When he asked for a pay raise after five years, he got an increment of one dinar. Adhuta, who felt humiliated by this one dinar, tried to change to another sponsor but his employer threatened to cancel his residence. He added that he preferred not to file a case against his sponsor because he was told it would take a long time in court.

Trauma

Another 22 Sri Lankan cleaners suffered the trauma of non-payment followed by the threat of deportation during April last year. Workers not paid for two months insisted on not signing any pledge with the company. Their passports and other personal documents were not with them to prove their residence in Kuwait.

These workers sought the assistance of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to get their dues and residence that have not been provided to them since their arrival. Their sponsor says that they are liars and claimed they were being paid regularly. The cleaners' monthly salaries range from KD25 to 35.

An official at the Sri Lankan embassy said that workers comprise 30 per cent of the 90,000 Sri Lankan community in Kuwait, who mainly work in cleaning companies, electric firms, road works and construction companies.

He added that around 10 to 15 complaints are received daily by the embassy for non-payment and change of residence. The embassy tries to contact the sponsor and sort out the problem. If they fail, the complaint is filed at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, if the

case remains unsolved it is then referred to court.

The official said that workers with low wages cannot pay for lawyers and the embassy cannot do much because they came from Colombo to Kuwait through an agent without the knowledge of the embassy here. However, the embassy tries to help them.

He added that recruiting agencies in Sri Lanka including Kuwait are unlicensed, resulting in workers falling prey to these unscrupulous people by their false promises. Most of these workers are illiterate and are seeking better jobs outside their country. The result is exploitation at very cheap wages for large numbers due to the fact that there is no ban on travelling abroad.

Alternatives

The official added that other alternatives should be sought such as a ban on the travel of large numbers and allow other alternatives for economic employment avenues to workers in their country. The outflow of workers to the Middle East should also be regulated, he said.

He said that it is very difficult to specify a set of workers' wages because of competition among Asian countries and stressed on the importance of a unified study to regulate and organise the export of labourers to the Middle East.

Many workers in construction and cleaning companies went on strike last year for non-payment. Among them were 900 workers who were repatriated to India on April 26, 1989.

These were employed on a section of Al Quraish Housing Project and went on strike on Jan 17, 1989 for non-payment of wages for four months. Three strikes were staged by the workers. However, after a breakthrough was reached in talks in New Delhi, the employer agreed to make an ad hoc payment of KD49,000 as part of outstanding wages and bear their repatriation costs. The labourers were owed more than KD135,000 in back wages. Workers on strike were on the verge of starvation and lived in pathetic conditions until Indian volunteer groups were asked to feed them and then the Indian Embassy took over from volunteers from mid-March.

Second contract

The First Secretary at the Indian Embassy, Verghese Gee, said that the number of Indians in Kuwait is about 150,000 of whom 60 per cent work in the construction, oil, administrative, cleaning and other similar jobs.

He added that the main problems for workers here are non-payment, under-payment and delay of payment. Most of the workers who come to us with complaints are not only concerned about the quantum but also about non-payment.

"We only come to know about the second work contract when the workers complain to us about non-payment and the matter is taken to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour," Gee said. He explained that the first contract is signed abroad while the worker is induced to sign a second work contract when he arrives in Kuwait.

He said that if there is a second contract then we cannot do much, but it is a matter of interpretation on which is valid. Any employee recruited from India has to get all the papers attested from the concerned authorities there to work abroad. He added that this advice is given to the worker before travelling, to abide by the original contract.

He added that in case any worker seeks the help of the embassy, it tries to solve the problem and negotiate with the sponsor, to reach an amicable settlement. If negotiations fail,



Expat labourers ... living in pathetic conditions and faced with long working hours, non-payment of wages and assault.

the issue is referred to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour according to the procedure here and then to the court if it is still unsolved.

Suresh M. Mathur, the Second Secretary at the Indian Embassy, said that generally no problems are encountered on transfer of residence because most workers come with a limited work contract, especially in the construction sector. If a transfer is not possible locally then the worker can re-enter with a new visa after cancelling the old one.

About the number of Indians employed in the cleaning companies, he said that recently, not many Indians are working in the cleaning sector due to the fact that wages are lower than those prescribed by the Indian government.

About cases filed by workers regarding non-payment, the official said that some get compensation while they are here, others when they go back and unfortunately some get nothing at all. He added that it is often difficult to solve these problems if the sponsor does not respond or co-operate. Thus the showing up of the sponsor can spare both parties such problems.

Controversy

A group of eight Egyptian workers told the Arab Times that they work in the construction sector.

Thirty-six year old Ahmed Abdul Moutawi, who works in a big construction company, said he and other friends came here through an agency in Cairo and are paid between KD 5 to 10 daily. He admitted that they face no problem here except transferring from one sponsor to another. He added that the article in the new labour regulation that states the three year period made things difficult for them. This restricted the mobility of many workers here and caused inconvenience between the employers and workers.

Moutawi added that he paid about KD 400 in Cairo to come here, yet he was able to save money and send it back home. For accommodation, he is living with other friends in Farwaniya Area in one room for KD 13 per month. Moutawi plans to stay here for another four years to save enough money to buy a piece of land.

Abdul Ghafour Sha'ban, who is 40 years old, is works as an electrician in a construction company. He said that is

working with a sub-contractor and has been here for nine years. He likes working here because he is saving KD 45 every month after sending money to his family. He brought his cousin here and both are working for the same company.

Another Egyptian worker, Sa'ad Hinawi, who was upset about the term of the three year change of residence, said that this will delay the activation in the private sector. By this term many workers who wanted to join other companies are forced to cancel their residence and re-enter with a new one. This added a heavy burden on the immigration department and created controversy among businessmen and companies. He added that if this term is amended with other relaxations, workers in the private sector will benefit.

The Egyptian Consul-general to Kuwait, Saeed Sultan, told the Arab Times that the Egyptian workforce is about 24 per cent of the total foreign work force. He said that in 1988 the total number of Egyptians working here was 161,875 with the following breakdown: 42,212 technical, 23,346 clerical, 15,317 services, 5,631 agricultural, 47,173 factory and 1,396 in managerial jobs. However, the total number had increased in 1989.

Sultan added that in 1989, around 1000 cases or more sought help from the consulate for non-payment or non-transfer of residence. Most of these workers were either engineers or workers in construction companies with low payment of three and a half dinars per day.

The official said that problems start when some workers are not paid and fall under the apparent injustice of the sponsor. In addition to that, many cannot transfer their residence, which is always interpreted in favour of the employer.

He added that the Egyptian consulate looks after the interests of its people and follows their complaints. Those who left without getting their dues can grant a power of attorney to the consulate to follow up their cases.

Now studies in Egypt are underway to protect the rights and dignity of workers abroad and find a balance between the cost of the work performed and the worker's wages. The study will focus on addressing the phenomena of duped workers through false contracts known in the Gulf area as a no-objection

visa. The official said that a real balance in the relation between the worker and his employer is required.

Measures

The Assistant Undersecretary for Labour Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Mohammed Al Shabani, acknowledged that delay in payment of workers' wages in the last few years by some companies was due to economic circumstances.

To redress this issue, the ministry has implemented the following measures:

Settle such disputes amicably or refer them to labour court, and in the final analysis boycott dealing with such firms.

Regarding the non-payment of workers, the ministry issued a decree No. 89/1989 which stipulates that every firm recruiting workers from abroad should deposit KD 250 for each worker along with a letter from the bank confirming that this amount is at the ministry's disposal if the firm breached its commitments of employees wages.

Speaking on the transfer of residence, the official said that this can be done after the worker has been employed for a minimum period of three years with the same sponsor. Whenever problems arise, the department is referred to the Residence Department for a gradual decision, the official said.

He added that since the implementation of the Labour Law in 1964, no fees are charged for any case filed by an employee and these cases are quickly processed. In this respect, the Labour Court at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour only deals with labour disputes and to facilitate speeding up the process, a special judge is appointed at the Court of First Instance.

In some exceptional cases, delays do occur which result from the need for financial experts to undertake an in-depth study, the official said.

Shabani, in an interview with one of the Arabic dailies in Dec 1989, said that the present labour law pertaining to the private sector does not allow the establishment of private sector recruitment agencies for import of labourers.

He added that the ministry allows local companies to import workers who are needed only for their projects. It also does not allow a shortage in the workforce which might increase the level of salaries. The state continues to

Education Ministry protects teachers

EDUCATION Minister Anwar Al Nouri has endorsed decision revising a clause under the current code on private education, whereby applicants for licences to set up private schools will have to submit a financial guarantee from a local bank.

Under the revised clause, schools will be obliged to submit a financial guarantee under three categories. First if the proposed school should contain from 1 to 500 students the guarantee value will be KD3000, from 501 to 1000 students the guarantee value shall be KD6000 and from 1001 students upwards the guarantee value shall be KD7000.

The second article stipulates that the school owner shall have to submit a written statement to the ministry entitling it to withdraw the guarantee, partly or wholly, with the right to take the legal, administrative and financial measures deemed necessary in the case of failure by the school owner to pay the salaries of his teaching staff and members of the school administration.

The article also entitled the ministry to decide to take necessary measures against failure by the school owner to make the necessary repairs or fill the existing shortages, in implementation of article seven of the decision. Additionally, the ministry has the right to revoke the licence, withdraw the financial guarantee and payment of all financial dues to students or school staff.

The decision also provided for stipulating the tuition fees applicable to foreign schools implementing the American education system, in line with the schools where the system is based on the British educational system.

increase the national manpower working in the private sector.

He said that the ministry tries to create a balance between the needs of the local market for manpower and the social and security risks that occur from the increasing number of workers who are not really necessary.

In a recent interview with the Arab Times, Shabani said that labour regulations issued last year to regulate the labourers in the private sector have adversely affected the flow of expatriates into the country. Only 10 sectors in the private sector can recruit foreign labourers. However, other factors influencing the flow of expatriate manpower to Kuwait originate from outside the ministry.

He added that about 64,000 expatriate labourers entered Kuwait for the first time in 1988 and over 27,800 left the country permanently. This leaves a net of about 36,200 labourers who added to expatriate manpower.

He said that the number of expatriate immigrants to Kuwait and their movements are influenced by a number of factors, some determined and controlled by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour's measures to protect labourers in the private sector regarding security deposit states that this amount of money should be provided in the form of a bank guarantee issued by a Kuwaiti bank to the concerned labour department. This decision fixed the respective amounts as follows:

Establishments employing up to 500 — KD 250 per worker.

Establishments employing more than 1000 workers — KD 200 per worker.

Establishments employing more than 1000 workers — KD 150 per worker.

Guarantees

Another article states that the employer should authorise the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour or his deputy to withdraw such amounts as may be required by the ministry for disbursement to workers. Such authorisation by the employer should be forthcoming no later than 15 days after receiving intimation from the ministry by registered mail. The bank guarantee cannot be considered cancelled until the ministry informs the bank to this effect.

Any violation of these decisions will be dealt with legally, the ministerial decision said.

The rules of this decision are applied to the following establishments:

Employers contracting to execute government projects. Companies, establishments and contractors involved in contracting business.

Firms, which, in the opinion of the ministry warrant a bank guarantee.

On the matter of transfer of labour residence, Article 16 of the new regulations of the labour law states that: Any labour permit issued in respect of a labourer to serve a certain employer shall not be transferred to another employer before at least three years, whether such a labourer was brought from abroad or locally employed. The validity of relevant duration shall commence to run with effect from the date of issuing the labour permit.

In the event of terminating the employment contract concluded between employer and labourer within this period for any reason whatsoever, the employer shall be held liable for the repatriation of such labourer, even if he/she is locally employed.

With regard to government projects, labourers shall not be transferred from one employer to another during the valid period of the contract, even if it exceeds the duration provided for herein before, save in the case of project contract withdrawal from the principal contractor, for re-adjudication in the favour of another contractor.

Labourers may then be transferred to the latter, without applying the duration condition stipulated hereof.

Upon the expiry of the government contract, the employer may transfer such labourers to another employer of a similar project, or repatriate them pursuant to the provisions of this resolution. This minister may exempt any person, as he deems appropriate, from the condition of the duration stipulated in this article.

Article 17 states that the ministry may exempt those who have been residing in Kuwait for a constant period of 10 years from the provision of the duration stipulated in the proceeding article, if the relevant labour contract has been terminated under the consent of the employer concerned, or in accordance with the provisions of either Article 57 or Article 59 of the Private Sector Labour Law.

The Director of Expert's Department, Khalid A. Al Mudhaf, extended his residence.

Mudhaf stressed that the role of the department concerning labour disputes is based on labour law of the private sector. The new regulations of labour law are directed at regulating residence affairs and are not under the department's affairs.

He added that the number of cases for change of residence did not increase in 1989 as compared to 1988.

The official concluded that the expert's department concentrates on entitlements and dues on cases referred to it by the pertinent court.

Lawyer Khalid Taher said that the second work contract does not stipulate that it cancels the first, it is regarded as it complements the first one.

He added that if both contracts are submitted before the court then the judge may approve the contract in favour of the labourer.

Taher stressed that signing a work contract should be done through the embassy to avoid any future problems. He added that any worker whose residence is cancelled while the case is in process can get a certificate signed from the court with full details after each session to submit it to the concerned authorities/immigration Administration and the Ministry of Social Affairs asking for permission to extend his residence.

SHIPPING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Alghanim Transportation Services, Kuwait's most successful shipping Company, has immediate career opportunities at various levels to join our expanding team:

LINE MANAGER

To manage one of our shipping lines, involved with container and/or break bulk or ro-ro services. Candidates should have 5 years proven experience.

MARKETING EXECUTIVES

To promote ocean freight, air freight and land transport services. Candidates should have a minimum of 2 - 3 years sales experience in freight services.

PORT SUPERVISOR

To handle all ship operation, and vessel coordination at the port. Candidates should have 5 years previous experience and be able to make an immediate contribution to the operations.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

EAT to live, and do not live to eat — Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1706-1790).

SLA act as Israeli proxies

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon. (Reuters): The 2,500 Christian, Muslim and Druze fighters of the South Lebanon Army are Lebanese, but the welcome sign at the headquarters of the militia is in Hebrew.

Officially, Israel keeps up a pretence of independence for the SLA, portraying it to a local self-defence force that shares Israeli interest in halting Palestinian and Lebanese Shiite Muslim attacks.

But from training, to equipment and salaries Israel's support for the SLA is so all-encompassing that it is certain to keep soldiers of the Jewish state in Lebanon for the indefinite future.

"The day we will be facing only Lebanese opponents, we will be able to do without IDF (Israel Defence Force) support," SLA commander General Antoine Lahd told reporters on a recent visit.

Israel, which established the SLA in 1985 to protect its northern border, will continue to back its own militia in a country ruled by rival warlords enmeshed in ever-shifting foreign alliances.

Unusually for a Lebanese militia, the SLA crosses religious divides. It is roughly half-Christian and one-third Shiite, with the remainder Druze and Sunni Muslims. Most officers are Christian.

But the greeting over the entrance of the SLA base in the town of Marjayoun, "Welcome to IDF and SLA headquarters in the security zone," is in Hebrew. The Arabic-speaking SLA officers glance towards Israeli escorts for approval before answering reporters' questions.

"Look, we never hid that we set it up. It's our area," an Israeli officer said when pressed about SLA independence. "There is not a militia or armed group in Lebanon that is on its own."

Israeli strings are most obvious in paying the bills. On top of \$2.7 million annually in militia salaries, the Jewish state even provides a grant to buy food for the SLA because the Lebanese did not like the supplies Israel initially provided.

The equipment is also Israeli, often weapons too antiquated for Israeli forces or trophies of their past conflicts with Arab armies such as Soviet-made 130mm tanks and 130mm artillery.

Training is provided inside the security zone at locations such as Majidieh, where Israeli teach tank warfare. Some SLA soldiers are sent to Israel for training.

Control of the 850 sq km (328 sq mile) security zone is maintained through armoured patrols and fortified observation posts that draw on Israel's experience in border defence.

The 2,500 troops of the SLA are backed by an undisclosed but limited number of Israel. Foreign military attaches estimate the Israeli presence in the zone at less than 800 men.

Officials give few details of the Israeli role in the four-to-12-km-wide (three-to-eight-mile) strip, but they run their own patrols, maintain their own outposts and keep a close watch over their SLA allies.

Israeli officials say the SLA is free to retaliate for attacks but consults Israel before initiating action. Since some SLA positions adjoin Syrian lines, the leash is tightly held.

Israel also runs a civil administration, the same title used in its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Nearly \$4 million a year helps maintain the primitive infrastructure of a war-battered region that is devoid even of telephones.

Israel denies any interest in permanent control but there is no question of it withdrawing in the foreseeable future.

By the Israeli measure of success — ensuring Palestinian commandos do not penetrate their border — the arrangement has worked.

Soviets allow Hebrew teaching

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. (Reuters): Members of a Soviet Jewish group who once had to work in secret, facing prison for teaching Hebrew, say they are now operating openly with the blessing of Soviet authorities.

Teachers in the Machanaim group who immigrated to Israel say they study at a leading Occupied Jerusalem rabbinical college, then return to the Soviet Union to train leaders for a Jewish community they say has only 15 rabbis for an estimated two million people.

Machanaim's Pinhas Polonsky told Reuters that a few years ago Moscow police threatened him with imprisonment for giving Hebrew lessons.

Now an Israeli citizen, Polonsky returned to his old home in the Soviet Union recently to find President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms have unleashed a religious revival in which Jews are thirsting for knowledge of their roots and ritual.

Walking through central Moscow, his skullcap and fringed ritual vest quickly drew a crowd of Jews eager for information on religion, Zionism and Israel, he told Reuters.

"One man came up to me and whispered, 'are you from over there (Israel)?'

"He said, 'I said yes and he asked a question, my answer brought another question and when he heard I wasn't whispering he started to speak aloud. In five minutes there was a crowd of 15 people round us in the middle of the street asking for information,' he said.

Leading Israeli rabbis met Soviet officials in Moscow last May and obtained permission to train Soviet Jews as teachers, preachers and community leaders. Jerusalem's Fiscal Institute started preparing Machanaim activists for the job in November.

The Machanaim graduates will serve in the Soviet Union as visiting teachers, while the 15 home-grown Soviet rabbis will study in Jerusalem during the summer.

The institute and Machanaim kept the project secret during its initial stages but plan to make a public appeal for support at a dinner in New York on January 25 to be attended by Soviet Jewish emoji Natan Sharansky.

Polonsky, one of six Machanaim activists to have travelled back to the Soviet Union on lecture tours, found dramatic changes under Gorbachev.

"These days it's easier for an Israeli to get a visa to visit Moscow than one to visit New York," he said.

Polonsky says he spoke to full houses in synagogues, schools, the state-run Institute of Manology and, ironically, the Institute for Scientific Atheism.

Moscow severed diplomatic ties with Israel over the 1987 Middle East war but recently exchanged cultural delegations and diplomats say cultural links are now stronger than before the split.

Science Minister Egon Weizmann met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow last week and said the Kremlin offered to raise relations to the level of charge d'affaires.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1520 — King Christian II of Denmark and Norway defeats Swedes at Lake Asunden and subsequently conquers Sweden.
 1701 — Brandenburg's Frederick III is crowned Frederick I, King of Prussia.
 1913 — Greek and Turkish naval forces battle off Tendos isle.
 1915 — Japan issues secret ultimatum to China regarding rights in Shantung and Manchuria.
 1918 — Russian constituent assembly opens in Petrograd.
 1952 — Anti-British riots break out in Egypt.
 1963 — Government of Charles de Gaulle in France insists that Britain be barred from European Common Market.
 1968 — United States and Soviet Union agree on draft treaty to control nuclear weapons.
 1973 — United States and North Vietnam announce that negotiators will meet to complete text of peace pact.
 1976 — France expels at least 40 Soviet officials on grounds they have worked as spies.
 1986 — Fierce fighting in South Yemen's capital city of Aden interrupts evacuation of foreigners.
 1987 — Media representatives from 34 nations, meeting in London, call for concerted action against censorship, including "hot line" for journal under threat.
 1988 — Loyalist troops in Argentina launch artillery and infantry assault on northeastern army compound held by renegade officer.
 1989 — Thousands of Czechoslovakians converse on Prague's central Wenceslas Square chanting "freedom," "truth," and "human rights" on fourth consecutive day of public dissent.



Militants from the Azeri Popular Front waving the flag of the once independent Azerbaijani Republic. (Reuters wirephoto).

Armenians, Azerbaijanis clash in Baku

Soviet south belligerence rekindled

MOSCOW. (Reuters): "There were too many murders for records to be kept, and too many to be forgotten by these merciless enemies," an eyewitness wrote of fighting between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the Caspian Sea port of Baku.

At least 34 people died in two nights of burning, looting and killing in Azerbaijan's capital last weekend and the eyewitness account is of events 85 years ago, when thousands died in a two-week orgy of violence amid blazing oil fields.

History is repeating itself in the Soviet south where an age-old bitterness born of racial and religious antagonism has erupted again into bloodshed between the mainly Christian Armenians and Muslim Azerbaijanis.

Time and time again — in 1818, 1905, 1918, 1988 and now 1990 — the two sides have turned to violence to settle feuds. But their lasting enmity has defied settlement, even with the problem-solving skills of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan, which sit side-by-side in the Caucasus mountains forming the Soviet Union's southern border with Turkey and Iran, has had a durable independent state in modern times.

In the 1800s both people's ancestral lands were divided between two powers.

Armenia, often called the world's oldest Christian nation, was split between Russia and Turkey, while Azerbaijan, Muslim since the seventh century, was divided between Russia and Iran.

But within the borders of first the Russian empire and then the Soviet Union, both peoples continued to claim several of the same territories as their own. The best known is Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan which is at the centre

of the current dispute.

While they have often lived together in the same communities, especially in the Azerbaijani capital Baku after it became an oil city of international importance at the turn of the century, they have zealously guarded their own traditions against encroachment by the other.

Against this background, violence has broken out repeatedly, with each side usually blaming the other for starting it.

"No human being can even classify or analyse the multitude of versions of the start of these massacres," wrote J. D. Henry, a turn-of-the-century journalist who wrote a book about the 1905 bloodbath in Baku.

"I毫不犹豫地 declare that no one can put forward a theory that will be universally accepted as true. Baku is the hotbed of wild theories, misrepresentations and lies," he wrote in a passage modern journalists can appreciate.

Among the contributing factors he listed labour unrest and economic rivalry. Most of the workers in the oil fields were Azeris while among the rich oil company bosses there were many Armenians.

In 1918, in the vacuum left by the collapse of the Russian empire, both enjoyed brief independence and fought each other over Nagorno-Karabakh, an attractive upland farming area occupying about 1,700 square miles (4,400 square km) roughly midway between Baku and Yerevan, the Armenian capital.

The same piece of land, with its rich vineyards and villages perched on mountainsides, was the scene of another bloodletting between the two peoples from 1818 to 1820.

Moscow gave it to Azerbaijan in 1924 but the

dispute over sovereignty is again the issue now.

A two-year-old campaign by its majority Armenian population to join Armenia sparked clashes in which more than 150 people have been killed, according to official accounts. But as in the 1905 clashes, the officials have probably lost count.

Until last week the worst violence had been reported in Sumgait, an industrial centre north of Baku where 32 people, most of them Armenians were killed in February 1988.

But the weekend violence in Baku, which broke out after an Azerbaijani nationalist rally degenerated into an anti-Armenian witchhunt, appeared to be much worse.

By Tuesday Armenians and Azerbaijanis armed with automatic guns, helicopters and armoured personnel carriers captured from Soviet security forces were fighting battles in the mountains around Nagorno-Karabakh.

The virtual civil war follows a year of defiance from Moscow. The latest violence exploded in December when the Kremlin tried to hand most of the reins of power back to Azerbaijan.

Neither side was satisfied and the weapons which both had been piling up for months were brought out. Kremlin envoys arriving in Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, came under sniper fire on their way into town.

Azerbaijanis militants, their nationalist fervour fanned by a new popular front movement, defied Moscow by tearing down border fences separating them from Azerbaijanis living in Iran.

The Kremlin has reacted by ordering a state of emergency in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas, but not in Baku, perhaps out of fear of inflaming Azerbaijani nationalism even more.

A.N. Sathyadas

Safat

Pick-pocketing

SIR: Last Friday, 12th January, 1990 while I was getting on a bus at the Central Bus Depot at Mughab my purse was picked by someone. My Civil ID, KD 17.000 and US\$25.00 were stolen.

Subsequently I came to learn that more than 50 (fifty) cases of pocket picking were performed by the miscreants that day alone at the place. In most cases the purse was the own away after taking out the money from it and the KPTC collected some of the purses from the bus depot.

We request the Police Department to keep an eye so that these sort of criminals can be caught and punished. These people are taking advantages from the places where there are possibilities of rush like Bus Depot, Souk al-Watia where many people gather on Sunday.

The criminals can also be caught from the finger prints on the purse and so the purses should be deposited with the police who ever gets any purse abandoned anywhere.

We hope that the law enforcing authorities will take immediate action in this regard.

Also request members of the public who had been pick-pocketed to report to the police, whatever small amount is stolen, so that the police may have an idea of the crime and go ahead to stop the crime.

Mohammed Chowdhury Y.

Safat

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"I wasn't concentrating on a few points, but it was good practice and I played better than in the first match. It was fun hitting with Boris, we had a good time and some good rallies and both enjoyed it very much. But it was a little bit difficult today. Perhaps last night I was trying a little bit harder, trying to play well and not make too many mistakes. It was not too easy coming back to the women's game." Graf after beating Erika de Lone.

"The recent racist move of the British government shows the rash reaction of the colonials towards the revival of Islamic identity and teachings, especially after the decree of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeini against Salman Rushdie" — Imaan quoting an Iranian minister who warned Britain over deportation of Iranian students.

"While there have been very positive aspects to our marriage, there were some issues which could not be resolved even after working on them for a period of time," — Tom Cruise and his wife Mimi Rogers in a divorce statement.

"By referring to Hrawi as a president you don't recognise my cabinet which is the legal one. Not by recognising me you are not recognising the laws I represent. This has to stop or be dealt with according to the law. You can call Hrawi anything but a president," — Aoun to reporters after bannin news on Hrawi.

"Ceausescu understood well before the Soviets that only the support, money and technology of the West could save the communist nations from crumbling. He therefore was the first to simulate reform, beginning in 1972. What Ceausescu did in 1972, (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev is doing now." — Former Romanian spy chief.

Romania faces an uphill task to rebuild

BUCHAREST. (Reuters): Romania's future is like a giant and complicated jigsaw puzzle with everyone scrambling to put the pieces in place.

Less than a month after a bloody revolution ousted communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, new leaders face mounting problems as they try to build democracy and reshape a shattered economy.

"They face a lot of a job to start democracy. People are asking, 'What is democracy? How does it work?'" a senior Western diplomat said.

"The economy is very bad," he added. "They are practically starting from scratch again and are hoping to get through the winter without difficulties."

The Soviet Union and Western countries have offered assistance and co-operation, but hard times still lie ahead.

Romanian and Western analysts warn that the country faces a bad bout of inflation as a "cold wind of the market place" blows through the economy.

Many factories are reported at a standstill with workers' pay due — raising the prospect of the government printing money to cover costs.

Prime Minister Petre Roman described the economy at

the weekend as disaster, and there is a serious energy crisis.

Romanians were badly shaken by a noisy demonstration in central Bucharest last Friday during which the ruling National Salvation Front caved in to mob rule, outlawing the Communist Party and promising a referendum on capital punishment which it abolished on January 1.

Interim President Ion Iliescu announced only 24 hours later that the death penalty and the future of the party would be up to a plebiscite on January 28.

The abrupt about-face reinforced fears that the front was failing to come to grips with the country's problems.

The date for the country's first free elections in 43 years is also in doubt. The front pledged them for April, but they could be put off until September at the request of fledgling political parties seeking more time to organise.

Six political parties have been registered, ranging from the National Peasants' Party founded in 1868 and the Liberal Party formed 20 years earlier, to a modern ecologists party. At least three more are being processed.

The highest authority is now the 151-member council of the front, an interim Parliament with members around the

country.

Executive power appears to lie with the front's 11-man executive headed by Iliescu, with day-to-day affairs in the hands of Prime Minister Petre Roman's government. Diplomats said the precise division of responsibility between the executive and government was unclear.

Local branches of the front have sprung up to replace the old communist apparatus and the front council has ordered the establishment of local government bodies.

"There is some discouraging news," one Western diplomat said. "The real revolutionaries do not trust the local head of the front and the

INTERNATIONAL

Dubcek urges help for Gorby

STRASBOURG, France, Jan 17. (Reuter) Alexander Dubcek, who led the 1968 "Prague Spring" reform movement crushed by Soviet tanks, said today that Europe should do all in its power to ensure the success of Soviet "perestroika" reforms.

"The success of perestroika is important for Europe and the rest of the world," said Dubcek, who was elected speaker of the Czechoslovak Parliament last month after the collapse of hardline communist rule in his country.

"I urge all in Europe to give all the help they can to the Soviet Union so that perestroika succeeds," he said.

Dubcek spoke at a news conference after receiving a European Parliament Human Rights Prize named after Andrei Sakharov, the father of the Soviet human rights movement.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev faces major challenges at home with bloody ethnic troubles in the south and the Baltic republics stepping up pressure for independence. Economic reforms have so far failed to deliver material benefits to disgruntled Soviet consumers.

Dubcek, whose efforts to introduce "socialism with a human face" 20 years ago, are sometimes seen as a precursor to Gorbachev's reforms, said that the Soviet Union was now that for the price it was Stalin's past.

Perestroika in the Soviet Union is experiencing difficulties because of the legacy of Stalinism and neo-Stalinism," he said.

In an address to the European Parliament, he said the way forward for Czechoslovakia was to develop closer ties with Western Europe.

"Let us do all that we can to ensure that these developments in Czechoslovakia and Europe are irreversible," Dubcek said. "Let us find ways, and do all in our power, to strengthen those tendencies which unite the peoples of Europe rather than those which still divide them."

He said he welcomed in plan by European Economic Community President Jacques Delors for a new form of association between the EEC and reformist East European nations.

He also said he saw no reason for the continued division of Europe into two military blocs—the Western Nato alliance and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.

He added that while there was little justification for the Soviet-led trading bloc Comecon in its present form, Czechoslovakia would continue to co-operate with the Soviet Union.

Czechoslovakia wants to forge wide-ranging co-operation with the world's 24 richest countries to help revive its ailing economy, Dubcek said yesterday.

Dubcek told Delors at a meeting that his country would set out its ideas in a memorandum to the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Delors' spokesman said.

Dubcek told Delors and members of the Parliament that Czechoslovakia needed help in areas like management training, financial expertise, and the environment, rather than to be given Western loans.

RELEASING TODAY

NEW CANARY
Huma Khan
Fame of...
Akif Ali Adool
Karam, Khooni Mahal, Ghulam
CANARY VIDEO
Sharg-249129

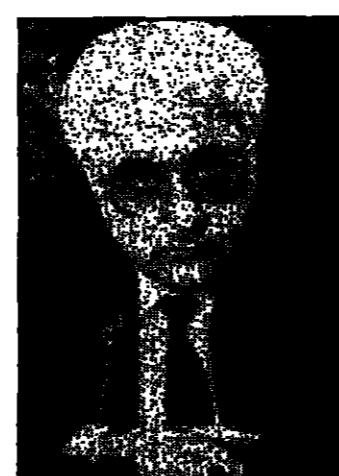


Armenians protest

Grieving Armenian women shout and wave their fists during a rally opposite the Central Committee in Moscow in protest at mass killings of Armenians by Azeri mobs in Soviet Azerbaijan. Banner reads 'The

corpses of Armenians in Baku rest on the conscience of the leaders of our country' (Reuter wirephoto)

Communists agree to concession

Opposition daily in Sofia

Andrei Lukanov talks to opposition groups in Sofia (Reuter wirephoto)

an answer." Simeonov told the communists seated across the table in the west hall of the national Parliament.

"Our slogans and our ideas do not reach everybody. We want what we have to say to be heard by everyone," Simeonov said.

Access to the media is important in Bulgaria, which is isolated from Western and all East bloc broadcasts but Soviet ones, and whose state-run media continue to run vitriolic attacks on opposition figures in an attempt to discredit them in the public.

The opposition won agreement on the daily newspaper, which it hopes will have a

print run of some 50,000 copies. Opposition spokesman Georgi Spassov decided to say who would write for it or exactly when it would start to appear as the country's first independent daily since the communists repressed all opposition in 1947.

The disarray that marked the talks was played out for an hour in front of Bulgarian and foreign journalists and illustrated the difficulties of East Europeans trying to move from totalitarian rule to more democracy without tools basic for the transition.

Spassov noted that almost all buildings in Bulgaria are controlled by the state, thus putting the opposition in the position of begging the authorities for office-space and a telephone.

"Plainly speaking, we cannot exist," Simeonov told the communists.

He asked how the opposition could be members of the negotiations "when we have no way of meeting to discuss things beforehand."

Andrei Lukanov, the powerful and politically skilled No. 2 to Communist Party chief and President Petar Mladenov, argued the ruling party had done all it could to provide offices and newspaper. He said matters were no longer in the communists' hands.

"I don't think you should be so suspicious," he said with a smile to the opposition, many of whom were jailed for months or years by the communists.

The opposition won agreement on the daily newspaper, which it hopes will have a

Ethnic Greeks jailed in Albania

ATHENS, Jan 17. (Agencies) A high-ranking Albanian official was scheduled to visit Greece in the next few days, amid reports yesterday that thousands of ethnic Greeks were being held in jail or military camps in Albania.

Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras told journalists that Albanian foreign under-secretary Sokrat Plaka, was scheduled to visit Athens at Tirana's request Jan 26, following reports in Greece of human rights abuses in Albania.

The semi-official Athens News Agency, in a report from Belgrade said some 25,000 ethnic Greeks were being held in jails in Albania, and another 100,000 in army camps around the country.

Plaka will hold discussions with Samaras and other Greek officials, but it was not immediately clear how long he would stay. Samaras hinted he would raise the issue of human rights in Albania.

The Albanian official's visit was scheduled days after reports surfaced in Greece that four ethnic Greeks, identified only as the Prassos brothers, were brutally murdered by Albanian police after they attempted to slip across the border into Greece.

Albania denied the charges, but an Albanian exile in Athens said at least two witnesses confirmed the killings.

The Athens News Agency in report from Belgrade yesterday quoted Albanian journalist Matanana Visko, in exile in Yugoslavia, as saying some 125,000 of the 400,000 ethnic Greeks in Albania were being held in jail or army camps.

Visko, who made his disclosure during a discussion on Albanian nationalism in the Yugoslav town of Skopje, near the border with Albania, said other minority groups in the country were also repressed, but he did not elaborate.

"The Albanian people are imprisoned between the borders of Albania as if it were an army camp," Visko said.

Samaras said last week that Albania had turned down a request from Athens that the Greek Charge d'affaires in Tirana should be allowed to visit Pepele, the village in southern Albania where the Prassos brothers were found.

The Greek foreign minister said he would not discuss border issues with Plaka, but that it was his duty, as Greek foreign minister, to raise the question of human rights for the 400,000 ethnic Greeks living in Albania.

Ethnic Greeks are not allowed to practise their religion or speak Greek in public.

NEWS IN BRIEF

9 dead, 11 missing in mudslide: Nine people died and 11 were missing after a mudslide engulfed the headquarters of the Soviet Caspian fleet in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, the Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

Yesterday the government newspaper Izvestia had reported that 16 people had died in the collapse of the building.

Tass said the slide struck just before 7 am on Tuesday as sailors were having breakfast, burying 28 servicemen. (Reuter)

Pen mightier than sword: A British World War II hero said Tuesday he had completed a deal with the Soviet government to use their scrapped nuclear missiles to make 100 million pens for sale to help disaster victims around the world.

"The pen is mightier than the sword, and it is one item that is used throughout the world," said group Capt. Leonard Cheshire, who won the Victoria Cross for Bravery as a Royal Air Force bomber pilot.

Cheshire, speaking from Moscow, said that the suggestion of the Soviets, 2,000 tonnes of metal from scrapped Soviet nuclear missiles will be used to make the pens, possibly in Britain.

Toddlers scalded to death: Eight Soviet toddlers were scalded to death in the midst of a cold spell when steam exploded from a broken heating system in their orphanage in the Volga River City of Ulyanovsk, Tass reported Tuesday.

The children, ranging in age from 1 to 3 years, died Saturday night after temperatures fell below -32 degrees Celsius (-26 degrees Fahrenheit) and part of the city heating system broke down, the official news agency said.

Tass earlier had said the toddlers froze to death, but later issued a correction. (AP)

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Moscow restores citizenship: Soviet authorities restored Soviet citizenship on Tuesday to Anatolii Rostropovich, exiled in the United States for more than 15 years.

The presidium of the Supreme Soviet, meeting in the Kremlin, approved a decree reinstating Rostropovich and his singer wife Galina Vishnevskaya as Soviet citizens, Tass news agency reported. (Reuter)

Mongolian authorities remove Stalin's statue after protests

BEIJING, Jan 17. (Reuter) Mongolia's communist authorities have bowed to mounting public pressure and removed one of two hated statues of Stalin standing in the capital, Ulan Bator, residents said today.

The statue stood outside an army officers' building in the east of the city and its removal left a sole monument to the Soviet dictator outside the national library which also bears his name.

For many Mongolians, their vast coun-

try hemmed in by the communist giants of China and the Soviet Union, the statues were a reminder of repression and purges endured under their own dictator Choybalsan who was a close ally of Stalin.

Removing the statue has symbolic meaning," said an Ulan Bator resident contacted by telephone from Beijing. "It will make people happy."

The Communist Party newspaper Unen briefly reported yesterday the statue's removal, saying the action was in response

to pressure from the general public, the resident added.

"I'm not sure if there was pressure from the army as well," he said. The statue was removed recently but he did not know exactly when.

Mongolia's cautiously reformist leaders removed the first force of changes sweeping the communist world in recent weeks. Last Sunday up to 5,000 people held a peaceful protest rally organised by a new opposition group, the Mongolian Democratic

Union.

One of their demands was the removal of monuments to Stalin. They also called on the authorities to put on trial former leader Yumzhagin Tsenden who lives with his Soviet wife in the Soviet Union. He quit after almost 40 years in power.

A larger rally is planned for Sunday in the city's main Sukhbaatar Square, named after Mongolia's founder who in 1921 created the second oldest communist state after the Soviet Union.

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 18-19, 1990

GDR polls plan may be derailed

No treaty until vote: Bonn

WEST BERLIN, Jan 17. (AP) The East German Communist Party claimed today the country was plagued by fear and violence that could disrupt plans for free elections.

The communist-dominated government has blamed last night's storming of secret police headquarters in East Berlin on the opposition, and claimed the rampage caused millions of marks (hundreds of thousands of dollars) in damage.

New Forum, East Germany's largest pro-democracy movement, acknowledged it had called for the protest earlier Monday that deteriorated into the rampage, but it rejected the government's criticism.

"There is no one from New Forum who wanted or planned the violence," spokesman Rainer Rodenwald said today.

Communists had pointed to New Forum flyers calling on protesters to bring stones to the gathering.

"The stones that were to be taken along were meant only to symbolically seal up the doors of the building," Rodenwald said.

New Forum, which has more than 200,000 members nationwide, has repeated its call to avoid violence and promised to investigate Monday's incident.

Some East Germans have suggested that the government itself provoked the storming Monday afternoon, to provide an excuse to strike back at the opposition.

The communists, trying to regain the political initiative, denounced the storming in a newspaper editorial today.

Neues Deutschland, the official Communist Party daily newspaper, called for "a security partnership" linking government, opposition and law enforcement officials to guarantee free elections on May 6.

The paper contended that "violence has increased and so has fear" in East Germany.

Another Communist Party newspaper, Berliner Zeitung, repeated in a front-page editorial the claim that the country has been targeted by neo-fascist forces trying to block democracy.

West Germany, concerned about East Germany's apparent plunge towards instability after Monday's storming, is backing off in its drive to establish closer ties, saying it will wait until after the May elections.

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UN to stop EEC meals for tots

AMMAN, Jan 17. (Reuter): Palestinian refugees in Jordan are protesting about a UN decision to stop distributing extra meals from the European Economic Community to almost 10,000 youngsters.

They say the move is "void of reason and wisdom" and with Jordan suffering an economic recession will have "very grave consequences (for) the health standards of the beneficiaries."

Some 9,500 Palestinian children aged three to five get a sandwich a day and a hot meal a week from Unrwa, the UN relief and works agency.

The European Economic Community don-

ates the food, worth two million dollars a year. Unrwa spends \$700,000 to prepare and distribute it. The food and money will still be used to aid Palestinians, but not necessarily in Jordan.

Ele Saaf, Unrwa director in Jordan, told a news conference on Wednesday: "Criticism from the refugees was expected."

A survey by Unrwa and the World Health Organisation two years ago found no malnutrition in Jordan or among the 900,000 registered Palestinian refugees, including up to 250,000 living in camps, he said.

The meals-for-toddlers approach will be phased out this year and replaced with a target

programme providing food in needy cases spotted by medical workers.

A committee representing refugees has written to Unrwa's Vienna-based commissioner-general Giorgio Giacomelli complaining about the decision.

Abdel Aziz Saeq, secretary of the committee, told Reuters: "It seems to me that all this is pressures being practised on us for political ends." He did not elaborate.

Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, Speaker of the Palestine National Council, said in a statement Unrwa's move could be a first step towards ending services to Palestinian refugees.

Peres-Mubarak talks next week

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 17. (Reuter): Israel, stung by a key senator's proposal to cut US aid, announced new diplomatic moves today to revive Middle East peace efforts after weeks of stalling.

Government officials said Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, excluded from Israeli diplomacy for several months because he was considered too dovish, would meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo next week to try to arrange Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The meeting, scheduled for Jan 24, will be the first top-level encounter between Israeli and Egyptian officials since Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin held talks with Mubarak in Cairo in September.

Peres spokesman Avi Gil said the Middle East peace process will be at the top of the agenda. He would not elaborate, saying only "when you're in Egypt, you don't just talk about the pyramids."

Gil said Peres, finance minister and leader of the center-left Labour party, had co-ordinated the visit with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of the right-wing Likud Bloc.

In a related development, Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quoted US Secretary of State James Baker as saying a trilateral meeting between Baker and the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel could take place in Washington by the end of February.

The Israeli officials reacted with apprehension to a proposal from Republican senator minority leader Robert Dole to cut aid to Israel and four other countries by five per cent and divert the funds to help new democracies in Eastern Europe.

Israel, with a population of only 4.3 million, is the world's biggest recipient of US aid, currently running at \$3 billion a year. It would stand to lose \$150 million if Dole's proposal passed.

Diplomats said the proposal came at a time when the Bush administration was impatient with Israeli haggling over Secretary of State James Baker's plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Hardline Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has demanded US guarantees that the PLO will not be involved, directly or indirectly, in the peace process and that talks will be limited to procedures for elections in the occupied territories.

Arafat slams Shamir's claim

BAGHDAD, Jan 17. (Agencies): Yasser Arafat said today Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement that Israel must retain the West Bank and Gaza Strip to settle Jews from the Soviet Union was "racist and expansionist."

The PLO chairman said Shamir's claim on the status of the occupied territories poses a threat to Palestinians, Arabs and the international community.

"We (the Palestinians) are going on with our resistance to the Israeli occupation ... but it is a challenge to all Arabs which we should confront," Arafat said.

Shamir declared on Monday that Israel needs to retain the West Bank and Gaza, the focal points of the Middle East conflict, to settle an influx of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

"It will make no difference for me whether I struggle against three million Israelis or four ... but Arabs should now feel the real threat of establishing greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates," he said.

Arafat claimed Shamir's latest statement and his rejection of a PLO role in peace talks reflect a crisis in Israeli policy toward peace efforts in the Middle East.

"Shamir is swimming against the tide of history."

■ The US State Department said yesterday it asked Israel to explain Shamir's reported comment that the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip should be used to settle Jews from the Soviet Union.

Anti-US strike in held areas

Israeli troops kill Palestinian boy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 17. (AP): A 19-year-old Palestinian died today of gunshot wounds from an earlier clash with Israeli troops, and Palestinians staged a general strike to protest what they perceive as anti-Arab US policies.

Yousef Hatem Shusha of the West Bank village of Husan near Bethlehem died at Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem after being shot in the head and back during a clash last night, Arab reports said.

An army official confirmed the death and said the circumstances were under investigation.

The death brought to 648 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis during the 25-month

Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian vigilantes have killed 170 fellow Arabs suspected of co-operating with Israel.

Forty-three Israelis have died, as well.

Also today, police commissioner David Krauss ordered a policeman removed from his post for unnecessary use of force during a peace rally in Jerusalem last month, police spokesman Uzi Sandori said.

Krauss made the decision after viewing film of police dispersing a demonstrators who formed a "human chain" around Jerusalem's old city on Dec 30.

Israel radio said the film

showed the policeman violently beating peace activists with a billy club.

More than 50 people were injured in the melee.

The European Economic Community and peace activists criticised police for using "unjustified" violence during the demonstration.

At the time, police said officers took action only after outlawed PLO flags were waved and stones hurled at police.

Throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, stores were shut and transportation came to a halt as Palestinians followed a strike call by the PLO-backed unified national leadership of the uprising.

Israeli officials said he would fight any effort to cut aid, arguing that the Arab military threat was unchanged and Israel faced big extra costs to absorb a wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

In a speech in Los Angeles, Rabin said: "The Soviet Union has not changed its policy of supplying arms to three radical Arab countries — Iraq, Syria and Libya."

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Attack isolated incident: Saudi Arabia's deputy interior minister was quoted on Wednesday as saying a bomb attack on the car of a Saudi diplomat in Ankara was an isolated incident. (Reuters)

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Rebels repulse offensive: Rebels in northern Ethiopia said on Wednesday that they had repulsed a two-pronged government offensive in Wollo province.

The clandestine radio of the Rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said rebel forces had blocked an army attempt to break through the frontlines at Hayk and Kutan, 35 km (20 miles) north of the provincial capital Dessie last Sunday. (Reuters)

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Call for Cyprus talks regretted: Turkey said Wednesday it regretted that the United Nations secretary-general had called for Cyprus

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Blue Nile water flow

Sudan warns Ethiopia

CAIRO, Jan 17. (UPI): Khartoum expressed concern yesterday about possible Ethiopian plans to dam the Blue Nile, and restrict the flow of irrigation water to Sudan and Egypt, Sudanese government officials said.

The Sudanese statement followed similar fears expressed in Syria this week, about Turkey's plan to divert the Euphrates river, which feeds irrigation canals in Syria and Cairo, to fill the massive Ataturk dam.

views and, God willing, you will hear pleasing news," the clerics said Besharati told them in a statement they published today.

At least 80 people have been killed and 285 wounded since the latest battles erupted on Dec 23 between the fundamentalist Hezbollah and the more secular Amal.

Vying for leadership of Lebanon's 1.3 million Shiites, Amal and Hezbollah have fought on-and-off battles for the past two years.

Besharati, who arrived in Beirut on Jan 7, has so far failed to convince Hezbollah to withdraw from five villages it seized from Amal. The Syrian-backed group insists Hezbollah pulls out before it will discuss a truce.

day praised the government's scrapping of a 37-year-old anti-communist law. (Reuters)

110-year-old survives surgery: A 110-year-old man survived a seven-hour operation under anaesthetic to remove his cancerous bladder, the Iranian news agency Isna said on Wednesday.

It said Mehdie Foroutan left Fatima Zahra Hospital in the Gulf port of Bushehr on Tuesday "in perfect health." (Reuters)

Pakistani speaker visits Iran: Pakistani navy commander and parliamentary speaker arrived in Tehran on separate missions on Wednesday, Iranian news agency Isna reported.

Communists welcome move: The head of Jordan's banned Communist Party on Wednesday

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Romania to search for foreign loans

BUCHAREST, Jan 17. (Reuter): Romania is calculating its foreign borrowing needs and expects to approach Japan and the United States first, National Economy Minister Victor Stanculescu said today.

The country's new leaders had reversed the rigid no-loan policy of the ousted communist regime and ordered a group of experts who work out the volume of credits and loans needed to get the economy going, he said.

"The deadline is the end of January ... I await their report but I have asked them to seek contacts already starting with Japan and the United States," Stanculescu, an army general, told Reuters in a wide-ranging interview.

In answer to other questions, he ruled out an early deviation of the Lei currency, confirmed that late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu had wiped out Romania's external debt but said he was not yet able to quantify the country's reserves.

The provisional government in power since Ceausescu's fall on December 22 says it has inherited an economic disaster.

It has announced a massive import programme over the next three months to meet the targets it has set — more food for Romania's 23 million people and energy to get industry going.

"Our priorities are people first and equipment second. Before (under Ceausescu) we said we were only interested in dollars or oil but now we want something to put on the dining table," Stanculescu said.

His new ministry is the result of a fusion of the old state planning committee and the ministry of technical and material supply — two temples of the old regime's central planning orthodoxy.

Stanculescu, a third generation military officer, was a deputy defence minister in charge of military production and procurement before last December's uprising.

IBM earnings sharply down

NEW YORK, Jan 17. (Reuter): International Business Machines Corp, the world's largest computer company, today reported sharply lower fourth-quarter and yearly earnings for 1989 due to restructuring and job cut costs.

The restructuring charge of \$2.4 billion, or 2.38 a share, was \$100 million more than the company indicated last month. But the earnings figures were below expectations, even accounting for the higher restructuring costs.

For the quarter, the Armonk, N.Y.-based computer giant said earnings fell to \$591 million, or \$1.04 a share, from \$2.35 billion, or \$3.97 a share. Revenues rose to \$20.46 billion from \$20.00 billion in the 1988 period.

IBM has been hit by slack demand for computers, both in the United States and, increasingly, in foreign markets. The slowdown was evident in the fourth quarter, when sales barely moved higher.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Jan 17. (Kuwait): Following are international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.291130	0.292228
Sterling	0.482111	0.485477
DM	0.191855	0.192069
Sw. Fr.	0.192455	0.193691
E. Fr.	0.050412	0.050699
Lira	0.0002300	0.0002320
Japan yen	0.001999	0.002012
Bah. din	0.772023	0.775690
UAE Dir.	0.079240	0.079595
S. riyal	0.077595	0.077822
Q. riyal	0.082266	0.083340
O. riyal	0.753837	0.759563

Interest rates

KUWAIT, Jan 17. (Kuwait): Following are KWD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8.5/16	8.9/16
3 months	8.5/16	8.15/16
6 months	8.7/16	8.12/16
1 year	8.3/16	8.12/16

Hungarian reform policies praised

Kaifu gives Hungary \$500m credit

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Jan 17 (AP): Japan is prepared to offer Hungary credit worth \$500 million, plus technology and managerial expertise to help with its economic reforms, a Japanese official said today.

Shigeo Takenaka made the announcement after an initial round of talks between Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and his Hungarian counterpart Miklos Nemeth.

Kaifu arrived in Budapest Monday on the last leg of a seven-day 10-day tour of Europe. He returns home today.

The credit package from the Japanese Export-Import Bank is to be distributed over three years, Takenaka said. The terms of the credits are to be discussed later.

However, the state MTI news agency said part of the Japanese credit is to be linked to credits from the International Monetary

Fund for economic restructuring

Hungary's parliament last month adopted a series of austerity measures demanded by the IMF. They include reducing state subsidies, allowing some private ownership and introducing market forces into the slumping economy.

Hungary has a foreign debt of some \$20 billion — the highest per capita in Eastern Europe.

When the measures took effect this month, prices more than doubled on some consumer items and basic foods. On Monday evening, as Kaifu was attending a gala dinner with Nemeth in Budapest's ornate parliament building, some 1,000 people protested the price hikes.

Takenaka, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the Japanese government was also

prepared to extend trade and investment guarantees of between \$200 million to 400 million.

Kaifu said Tuesday the Japanese government hoped to transfer expertise and technology to Hungary and announced that over the next five years his country would spend \$25 million training Hungarian and Polish economists, managers and environmentalists, MTI reported.

Also Tuesday, a contract was signed with Toyota to supply Hungary with several thousand ambulances over the next ten years, MTI said.

Last week Suzuki Motor Co., Japan's largest sub-compact car producer, reached agreement to set up a plant near Budapest, in what would be the sixth joint venture between the two countries.

Bankers urged to aid bank reforms

Volcker urges China to keep economy open

BEIJING, Jan 17. (Agencies): Former US Federal Reserve board chairman Paul A. Volcker urged China today to keep its economy open to the world.

Volcker, guest speaker at a three-day conference on central banking, said he hoped China's open-door policy would continue because international cooperation in monetary matters was "irrelevant if you have a closed society."

The conference, sponsored by the UN Development Programme, the International Monetary Fund and the People's Bank of China, focused on such areas as the role of monetary policy and the functions of the Central

Bank.

Chen Yuan, deputy governor of the People's Bank, China's central bank, told a news conference that one thing learned from Volcker and other participants was "how to resist strong demand for funds from local governments and enterprises."

Volcker, head of the Fed from 1979 to 1987, was known for sticking to a tight money policy in the face of strong political pressure in a winning battle against inflation.

In late 1988, China began restricting credit and took other austerity measures in a drive to bring inflation

under control.

The government succeeded by late 1989 in bringing the inflation rate under 10 per cent, compared to 30 per cent a year earlier, but at a cost of rising unemployment and thousands of factories having to shut down or reduce production because of lack of operating funds.

"In the long run, inflation is destructive for growth and unemployment," said Volcker, who now teaches economic policy at Princeton University.

"There's a great deal to be said for giving priority to stabilizing prices."

Chen acknowledged that under the current "retrenchment" policies, the

government has given priority to price stability rather than pricing reforms. Western economists say are crucial for a modern, market-oriented economy.

"But that doesn't mean we have stopped price reform," Chen said, pointing to new pricing systems in the coal and transport industries.

Richard D. Erb, deputy managing director of the IMF, also praised China for its ability to rein in inflation, saying there were very few nations that have achieved China's level of growth "without having severe deterioration in terms of inflation."

Erb said the speakers at the con-

ference, including Central Bank of Mexico governor Miguel Macera and former National Bank of Belgium governor Jean Godeaux, stressed the need for a central bank with autonomy and accountability and a commitment to competition among financial markets and price and wage flexibility.

China has called on top Western central bankers to help reform its banking system and give new muscle to its central bank, often bullied by other arms of the government.

Chinese bankers and economists have long complained that the People's Bank of China, the central bank of

China, had too little power and was unable to deflect pressure from local governments to ease credit controls.

They have argued that without the power to deny credit, the central bank does little more than print money to cover government deficits.

Chen Yuan, deputy governor of the central bank, said he expected the bank to expand its powers in future and that Western advice was helpful.

"We believe there are things we can borrow," he said. "The People's Bank of China will continue to be strengthened along with economic develop-

Imports decline

Trade deficit widens

US industrial output soars

WASHINGTON, Jan 17. (AP): The US foreign trade deficit widened in November to \$10.5 billion, its worst showing in 11 months, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said that while imports declined by \$593 million to \$40.69 billion, US exports dropped a larger \$843 million to \$30.19 billion. The trade deficit is the difference between imports and exports.

The two-day meeting will be the 14th annual conference of the board of governors of the Islamic Development Bank which, since being established in Jeddah in 1975, provided member states with finances close to \$10 billion.

The Red Cross has registered some 50,000 prisoners held by Iran and more than 19,200 by Iraq. But United Nations officials and diplomats estimate the two sides hold about 100,000 POWs between them.

The Red Cross secured an agreement to repatriate all prisoners immediately after a UN-sponsored ceasefire halted the Gulf war on Aug. 20, 1988.

But the deal collapsed after the exchange of only 400 disabled and wounded prisoners with both sides accusing each other of falsifying the number of captives seeking asylum.

UN-sponsored peace talks launched a few days after the ceasefire have been deadlocked mainly over the troop withdrawal issue and Iraq's demand for the demarcation of the border to give it sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab waterway, its main outlet to the sea.

Akram Al Witr, a Foreign Ministry legal adviser, said Iraq would reciprocate by releasing 20 Iranian sick and disabled prisoners on Thursday.

There was no explanation why Iraq would not release an equal number of prisoners.

ICRC officials said the char-

acteristics of the OIC economy ministers plan meeting

WASHINGTON, Jan 17. (AP): Finance and economy ministers of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference will meet in Algiers on Feb. 28 to review means of enhanced inter-Islamic economic and financial co-operation, OIC officials announced today.

The two-day meeting will be the 14th annual conference of the board of governors of the Islamic Development Bank which, since being established in Jeddah in 1975, provided member states with finances close to \$10 billion.

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Panasonic AV and OV exhibition

THE Panasonic AV and OV Convention was held at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on Tuesday as part of a four-day exhibition organised by National agent: Easa Husain Al Yousifi and Matsushita Electric Industrial Company Ltd., Japan.

On display are dubbing systems, editing systems and CCTV systems, cordless phones, facsimile machines and other audio-visual equipment and office machines.

"We wanted to introduce efficient audio-visual products and office automation devices and promote them for improved performance in offices," said Hirozo Yamamoto, Matsushita's senior assistant manager for system equipment sales for Asia and the Middle East.

Yamamoto said the convention is part his company's policy to introduce and promote their products on world markets.

Commenting on his company's policy of transfer of technology, Yamamoto said Matsushita has about 100 foreign production units. It shifted production of certain items to offshore factories in Thailand and Malaysia, he said, to share technical know-how. Asked if there might be a similar programme for the Gulf, Yamamoto said: "Not at the moment."

He believes that an automated plant needs to be cost-effective. He said: "Nowadays the emphasis is on automated, high quality products; this must guarantee a certain quantity of production for a project to be economically feasible."

For the moment, Matsushita wants to concentrate on the industries in Southeast Asia. "We have a big commitment in Southeast Asian countries and for the moment, we cannot shift emphasis," said Yamamoto.

The Japanese market has reached a saturation point and is facing fierce competition with relatively inexpensive Korean products. Yamamoto believes the industry has nothing to fear because "not all people buy cheap products."

Yamamoto waves aside claims of competition from such countries as Korea saying: "We believe that we must assist regional countries to develop industry; we are finding a way to co-exist." He said this was one reason for transfer of technology.

Yamamoto said "hard work, discipline and trained, skilled staff and quality products" contributed substantially to the success of his company. Matsushita was named among the first 60 top companies by the US Fortune

magazine. Except the US, the company enjoys the ninth place in the electronics industry.

The National agent in Kuwait, Easa Husain Al Yousifi, said they plan to introduce cordless phones in Kuwait shortly. Yousifi admitted the market for

electronic products was affected by recession but said "Fortunately, (it was) not so bad for us as we have been able to keep our market share." National products enjoy a large percentage of sales in the consumer products market.



S. Itoh: manager



Hirozo Yamamoto: executive

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.45 Sabah Al Kher news and varieties

10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.15 Sabah Al Kher news
10.30 Rejal Fi Al Masyada: Arabic serial (part 5), starring Mohammed Redha, Amenea Reza, Mimi Jamal

11.30 The Open Universities: cultural programme
12.00 Sabah Al Kher News
12.15 Hewar Wa Nagham: local variety programme, prepared by Khaled Bu Hima and presented by Nervana Idrees

1.00 News summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.25 Mira Ghair Kalam: variety programme (part 2), presented by Hassan Mustafa

2.15 Discovery: cultural programme (part 3)
3.00 Varieties
3.30 Liqa Al Khamees: variety programme

5.00 Bereen: Cartoon Serial
5.30 Cartoons
5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines, and Official advertisements

6.00 Al Fares Al Aasqah: historical serial (part 3)
7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local programme, prepared by Ministry of Education school activities department

8.00 Kul Al Fonoon: local variety programme, prepared by Hassan Awwara and presented by Rasha Majdi

8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mathkoor

9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Ghada Tusbreqo Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 16)

10.45 Lasto Qatallan: Arabic feature film, starring Fareed Shawqi, Sabreen, Ihsan Al Qalawai

12.20 Thursday late night variety show
1.30 News summary
1.35 The World Today via Satellite

1.50 Holy Quran and Closedown



KTV-2 Friday, 10.00 Roseanne

by Fatema Abdul Wahab
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.20 Hadeeth Deen: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
2.00 The Friday Break
4.00 Al Hob We Seneo: Arabic serial (Part 3), starring Husain Fahmi, Isaaq Younis and Abu Baker Ezzal
5.00 Bereen: Cartoon Serial
5.30 Cartoons
5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines, and Official advertisements

6.00 Kuwait Television programmes: A week preview
6.30 Kuwait in a Week: News Programme, prepared and presented News Control.

7.00 The Living Planet: Cultural Programme (part 3)
8.00 Maa Al Osra: Local programme, prepared by Tahani Al Burqaili, and presented

by Fatema Rashed
8.45 Hadeeth Al Osboo: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Wrestling

10.30 Local variety late night programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader and presented by Fatema Abdulla Wahab

11.45 News Summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 Bernstein Bears: A cartoon series for children

6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magical acts and illusions... training children how to use or deal with information...

7.00 Wild America: "Snake Dance" A look at a snake dance which is rarely witnessed or seen by man...

7.30 My Secret Power: "Toxic Time Bomb": Andrew and his friend Dr Benjamin foils a project planned for producing a toxic time

8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait.

8.45 Rescue: 911. A football player is revived after his heart stopped for 25 minutes, and an injured person is rescued in a remote rocky area, a pilot is rescued despite his craft's wheel remained inside its body...

9.30 The Weekend Programme
10.00 Roseanne: A Mall Story

10.30 The Mystery Wheel: "Sleep Well Mr. Oliver". Devil-worshippers are exploited by their association's founder who used to record their devilish rituals on videotapes and sell the same for excitement seekers...

11.30 News in Brief
11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Salmiyah
Arabic film
Al Hamra
Someone to Watch over Me
Drive-in
Revenge of Nerds II
Al Firdous
Malamaal
Fahsheel
Lakhi Badhu
Al Jaha
Tauxedo Warrior
Granada
License to Kill
Salahibkhat
Inqilabante Puthri
Jeeb
Garibon Ka Daata
Almadi Drive-in
Arabic film

12.20 Thursday late night variety show
1.30 News summary
1.35 The World Today via Satellite

1.50 Holy Quran and Closedown

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 The Smurfs: A cartoon series for children

6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magical acts and illusions... training children how to use or deal with information...

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Kart race
KART Racing at Ahmadi on Friday. Round 7 of the Kuwait National Drivers championship plus a ladies race. Racing starts at 1.30 pm and admission is only 500 fils. Snack bar for hot food and rentakari available for test drives.

Danella Dart Tournament 1990
The Dart Tournament for Danes will take place at the Gazelle Club on Friday, Jan 26, starting at 2pm (expected to finish at 8pm). It is a family event featuring separate junior tournament, so don't leave the children at home. For further details and registration, please call Henrik Licht — 3727688 ext 246; or Bjarne Rasmussen — 3720137 before Saturday, Jan 20.

Tivim Centre
TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information, please contact organisers — 241860 Casmir.

Kuwait
Dubai Pharmacy
Wajeeh Street
Al Muntaser Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber Street
Hawalli and Negrha
Al Rehab Pharmacy
Tunis St
Salmiya and Remaithiya
Razan Pharmacy
Al Rasi Street
Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Khaleej Pharmacy
Al Mujama Street
Farwaniya
Al Farwaniya Pharmacy
Al Mawar Complex
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Al Matafi Street

5.20 am
Zohr
11.58
2.54 pm
Maghrib
5.14
Isha
6.35

FRIDAY

Fajr
5.20 am
Friday prayer
11.59
Asr
2.55 pm

Maghrib
5.14
Isha
6.36

PRAYERS

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NIGHT CHEMIST

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



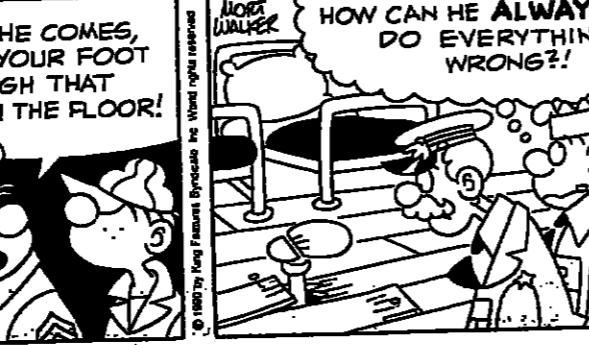
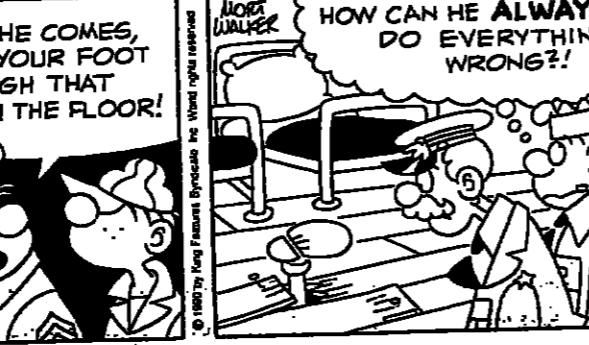
MAGAR THE HORRIBLE — Gorden Brownie



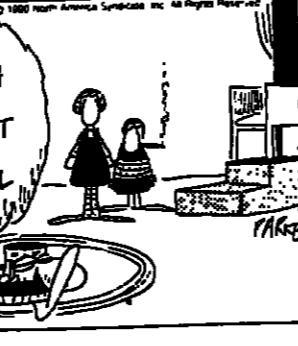
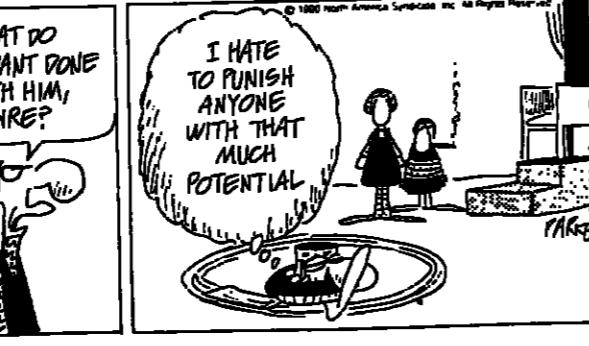
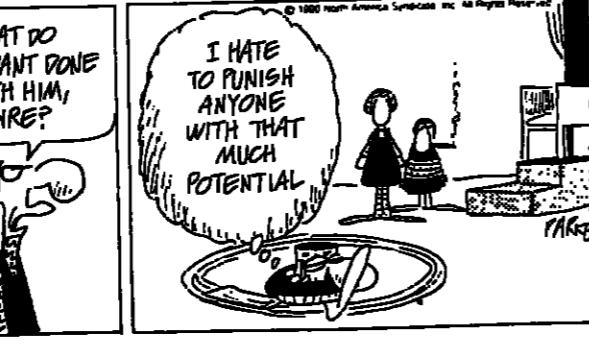
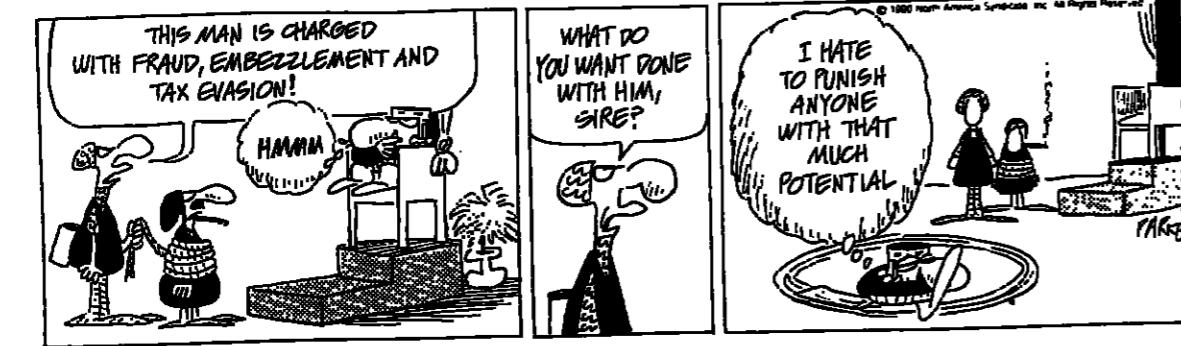
AGATHA CRUMPT — Frank Hart



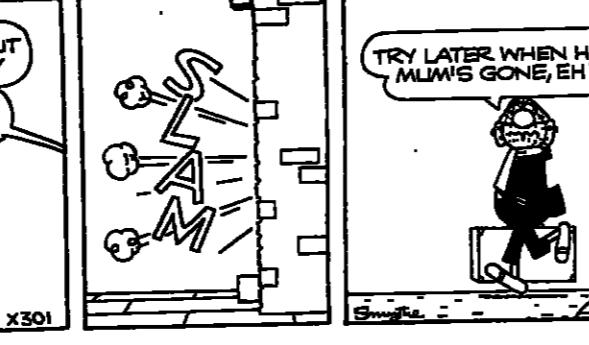
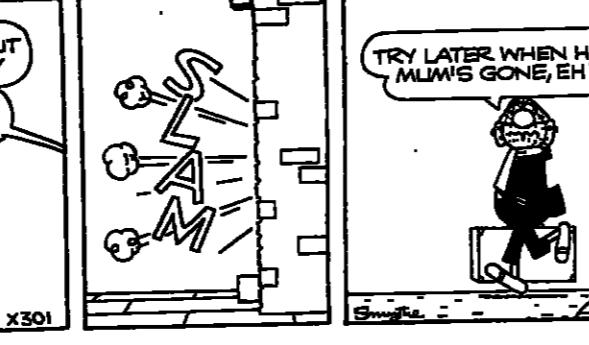
BEETLEBAILEY — Charles M. Schulz



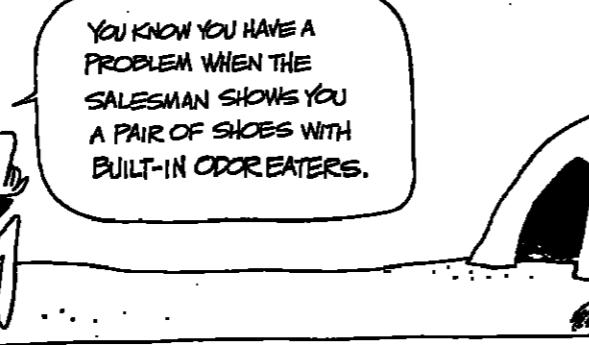
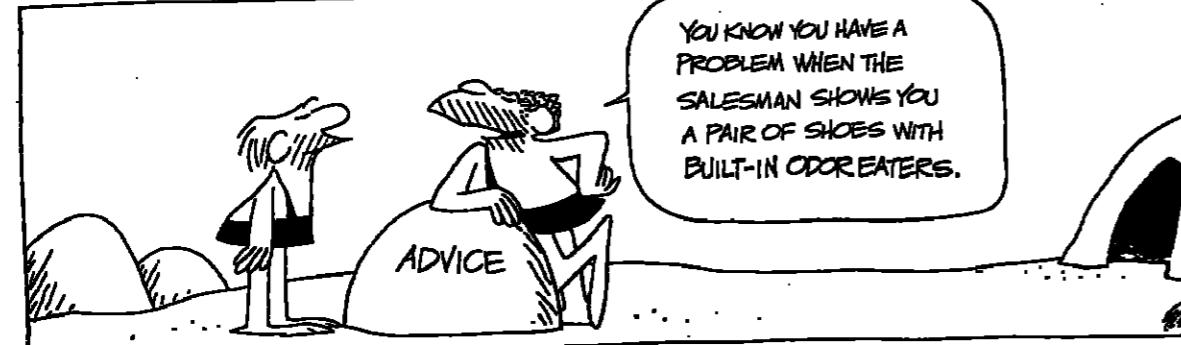
THE WIZARD OF OZ — Lyndhurst & Johnny Hart



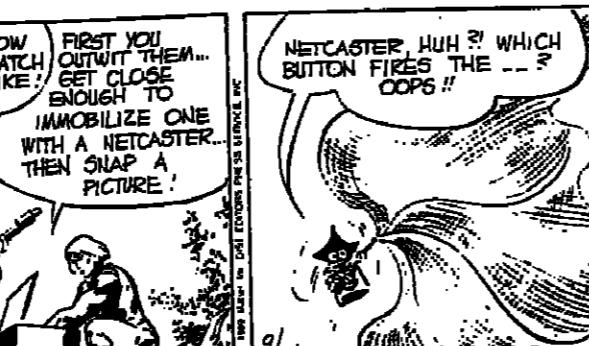
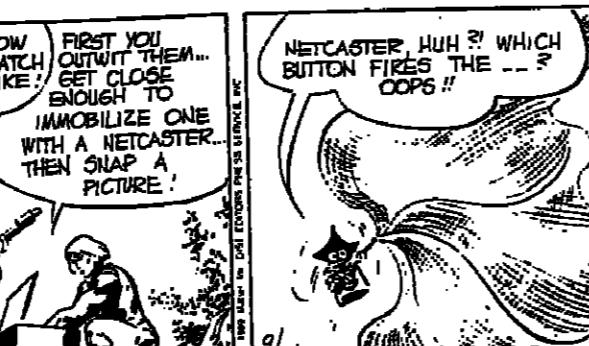
ANDY CAPP — Johnny Hart



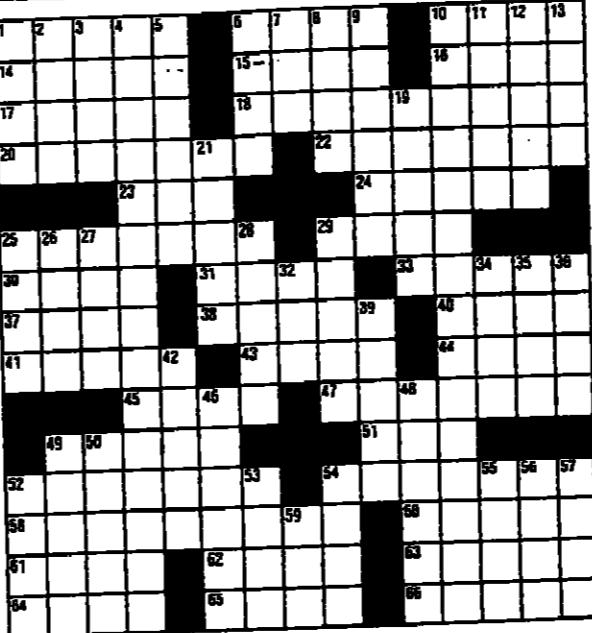
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Form & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
 1 Polo from Venice
 6 Soufflé ingredients
 10 Unexciting
 14 Man from Manchuria, e.g.
 15 Cheerful tune
 16 Brother of Eris
 17 Fence steps
 18 Berlin favorite of 1927
 20 Fall
 22 Adriatic seaport
 23 Little one: Suffix
 24 Brave people, to a Cockney
 25 Pat —, of "Smothers Brothers Comedy Show"
 29 Sentence subject
 30 Canadian prov.
 31 City on the Tevere
 33 Nuisances
 37 Type of moss
 38 Chris of tennis fame
 40 Photo
 41 Cinders
 43 Cunning
 44 Golda
 45 Place for a pigeonhole
 47 Trying experiences
 49 Jeweller's weight
 51 — pro nobis
 52 Egg stones
 54 Fathomless
 58 Lee
 60 Affairs of honor
 61 Cut of meat
 62 Harp's ancestor
 63 Grain disease
 64 Antlered boast
 65 Strong — ox

66 Common bovines DOWN
 1 Manly: Abbr.
 2 Travel agents' org.
 3 "The Making of an American" author
 4 Estimated chances of failure
 5 Tatami and Ryan
 6 Dresden's river
 7 Lesage's Blas
 8 Oversupply
 9 Sound system feature
 10 Test a person
 11 Greet the day
 12 Encounters
 13 Actual being
 19 Pancake topper
 21 Farm implement pioneer
 25 Sabriquet for Hemingway
 26 Stout and porter
 27 Deseret, today

28 Kim of "Picnic" 29 Stupor: Comb. form
 32 Debussy's "La —"
 34 Strawberry's field
 35 Labor
 36 Riverboats: Abr.
 39 Pulsate
 42 Bleachers, e.g.
 46 "A Streetcar Named Desire" role
 48 English poet laureate: 1668-88
 49 Bermuda's makeup
 50 Regretful interjection
 52 Fairy-tale villain
 53 "Simon" (children's game)
 54 Capital of Yemen
 55 Bucks beginner
 56 Thanks —
 57 Landing crafts
 59 New Deal letters

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CATT	ISLES	SLOW
ARROW	SHARI	NODE
TARANTULAS	OBOE	SLY
SLY	ALTO	SWORD
CREED	MAIL	GARES
GARES	BACTERIA	BACTERIA
ILLUS	BURT	OARY
ROBBS	FILES	PIER
ABOUT	ORGs	PANNE
NEMATODE	PARSE	COTS
SPIRE	LOCIP	FLU
ALIA	RHYPHTHOMEROS	ALIA
LEON	AUDEN	TARE
TATS	GESIO	CUED

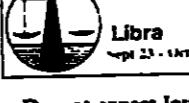
YOUR STARS



Aries
 March 21 - April 19



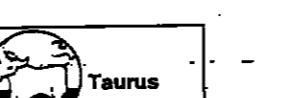
Cancer
 June 21 - July 20



Libra
 Sept 23 - Oct 22



Capricorn
 Dec 21 - Jan 19



Taurus
 April 21 - May 20



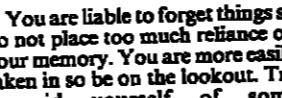
Leo
 July 23 - Aug 22



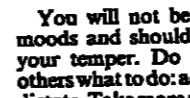
Scorpio
 Oct 23 - Nov 22



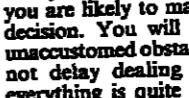
Aquarius
 Jan 20 - Feb 18



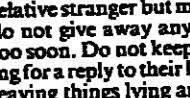
Gemini
 May 21 - June 20



Virgo
 Aug 22 - Sept 21



Sagittarius
 Nov 23 - Dec 22



Pisces
 Feb 19 - March 20



"Here's your supper.
 I've waxed the floor."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

RATHER SAFE THAN SORRY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♦ A J 9 5 3 2

♥ A 5 2

♦ K 7 3

♣ 6

WEST

♦ Q 7 6

♥ Q

♦ Q J 9 8 6

♣ 4 2

♦ 10 8 5 3

♥ A 7

SOUTH

♦ 10

♥ K 9 7

♦ A 10 5

♣ K Q J 9 4 2

EAST

♦ K 8 4

♥ J 10 8 6 4 3

♦ A 9

♣ 10

♦ K 9 7

♥ A 10 5

♣ K Q J 9 4 2

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

Before committing yourself to a plan of action, count your tricks! This hand from a team match shows how important that can be.

At both tables, North-South

reached three no trump on identical auctions. North's two-spade rebid in this sequence suggested a six-card

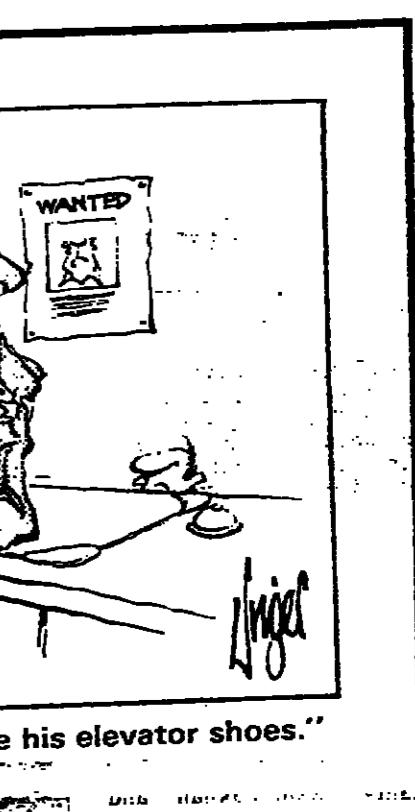
suit, so there was no reason for him to correct to four spades.

At both tables the lead was the

queen of diamonds, taken by the king. Both declarers led a club from dummy at trick two and both Easts followed with the seven. At one table, South's jack won and the continuation of the king lost to the ace. East reverted to a diamond, declarer tried the ten and West took the jack and cleared the suit. When the ten of clubs failed to drop, declarer ended up with only eight tricks.

At the other table, declarer paused to take stock. With five fast tricks he needed only four from clubs for his contract. Since West could not profitably continue to attack diamonds, declarer found a line of play that guaranteed his contract as long as clubs were no worse than 4-2.

Here, too, declarer led a club at trick two, but to the nine! West took the ten and, since a diamond continuation would do no good, tried switching to a spade. But declarer was in control. Dummy's ace of spades won (to play low could nullify the gain achieved by the excellent play in clubs), and a heart to the king provided the entry to drive out the ace of clubs. The best the defenders could muster was two tricks in each black suit.



"Someone stole his elevator shoes."

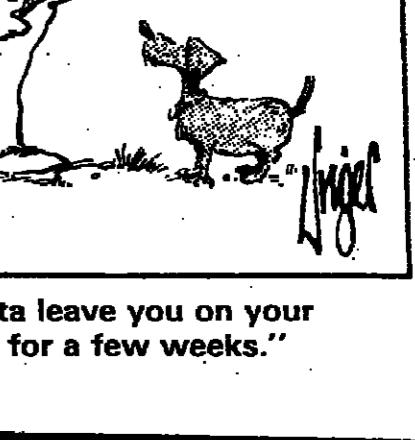
You will be in a better mood, but you must beware of an excess of exuberance. Do not blame others for what is at least partly your fault. Make sure you do not leave doors and windows open. Be responsive.

There is no harm in trying some alternatives, but nothing too adventurous. Make sure that your information is up to date. Do not keep anyone waiting. Be reliable. Be generous.

You will have to deal with someone rather aggressive and should not try to counter by being aggressive yourself. The wind is in your sails but do make sure you are steering in the right direction.

You will get on well with a relative stranger but make sure you do not give away too many confidences too soon. Do not keep others waiting for a reply to their letters. Avoid leaving things lying around — just what burglars like. Be fair.

You will encounter an unusual obstacle but you will have the resources to deal with it. Remember that the truism 'waste not want not' still applies. You should face up to your responsibilities and meet your commitments. Be less extravagant.



"I gotta leave you on your own for a few weeks."

Brazil's cult market thrives

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP): In Ricardo Conceicao Lima's store, dried bat wings are a big seller. So are devil statues, baby snakes and deer antler shavings. Lately there's been a run on mystical African incense, said to attract wealth.

Lima's spirit-cult supply store, tucked away in the corner of a musty indoor market in Rio's poor northern zone, has a steady and loyal clientele.

While many retailers are struggling to stay afloat amid 1,765 per cent inflation and soaring interest rates, Lima says business is good and getting better.

"Since March our sales have jumped 50 per cent," he said. "The toughest times get, the better I do."

Lima is one of thousands of merchants who cater to Brazil's legions of spirit-cult worshippers.

An estimated 90 million of the nation's 150 million people follow African voodoo-style cults, generally lumped together under the term Macumba and descended from Yoruba and Bantu religions practiced by slaves.

Over the centuries the cults freely borrowed elements of Roman Catholicism, native Indian faiths and European witchcraft. They are now uniquely Brazilian, and have spread among all races and classes.

"Brazilians have lost faith in their leaders and are turning to spiritual means of solving their problems. Artists, businesspeople, politicians — everyone has a hand in it," said Paulo Coelho, a magician and author of several books on magic.

Most cult-artikel buyers are the poor who inhabit urban shantytown slums, jumbles of shacks lining dirt tracks with no plumbing or running water.

But a growing number of customers are middle- and upper-class Brazilians seeking help for emotional or financial troubles: businessmen worried by inflation, women upset when their grown children leave home, unemployed college graduates frustrated with a shrinking job market.

At the heart of this phenomenon is the belief that many illnesses, economic headaches and romantic setbacks have a spiritual origin — and the same goes for good luck.

"I used to be just a manicurist," said Sonia de Oliveira, a 46-year-old Rio housewife. "But when I became a believer, my whole life improved. Now I have a car, a house and I don't have to work for anyone."

About 85 per cent of Brazilians profess to be Roman Catholics. But many see no conflict in spirit-cult worship.

To tap the market, some merchants have switched from peddling household wares and clothes to hawking cult articles. Manuel Figueiras Pontes gave up his fish stand to open a voodoo shop three years ago.

"I knew a lot of people would rather practice Macumba than eat," he said. "So I switched. I'm not sorry I did."

For the voodoo bargain hunter, the market in Madureira district, on Rio's north zone, is the place to shop. Some 37 of the 350 shops in this winding, shadowy market feature black magic items. All the visitors need is a fat wallet and a strong stomach.

Outside the Oxala Tecidos shop, a life-sized mannequin representing the spirit deity Exu is clad in a black top hat, boots and velvet cloak, holding a trident stand.

African believed Exu was the principle of change, movement and fertility. But under the influence of Roman Catholicism, Exu is

Brazil became a devil. This particular Exu is called Marabu, an entity said to bring financial success. His cap costs \$80. The boots are \$145, the trident \$45.

At the nearby Odo-Ya voodoo shop, toads used to cast evil spells go for \$25. Duck feet cost a mere \$4. Elephant tails, seashell necklaces and dried ears of corn used to ward off evil spirits range from \$1 to \$15. A bar of black, tar-like soap to wash away negative fluids goes for \$6.50. It's imported from Africa.

Short on cash? No problem. Proprietor Antonio Heleno accepts all major credit cards.

Heleno takes special pride in a collection of dull brown rocks sitting in ceramic bowls of water on the floor. Their magical properties are protected in blessed water, he explained. This week he's running a special sale — \$3 per rock.

Next door, animals are sold for sacrificial rituals, a controversial but widely tolerated practice.

The chickens' head, feet, wingtips and tail, said to hold the "axe" (ah-shesh) or magical force, are cut off in an age-old African ritual. Goats, stabbed in the neck during rituals, sell for \$3 a kilo.

Some object to the cult worship, especially sacrifices, but moves to ban such practices have not worked.

Last July, Rio councilman Wilson Leite Passos called for a law prohibiting animal sacrifice. Some 280 cult leaders clad in white lace, turbans and glass-bead and tooth necklaces gathered on the steps of city hall and threatened to cast a spell over each councilman.

The bill was quietly withdrawn.



Didn't I tell you it would be a hit!

Film superstar Sridevi and Rishi Kapoor shown in action shot of the film 'Chandni'. A romantic story with a soothing effect, devoted love and emotions.

Songs based on folk-lore tunes and silhouette camera — work a piece of art amid a mad crowd of pop and break — dance movies.

The success of 'Chandni' has once again proved that Hindi movie — goers still have a taste for romance — oriented films that stir waves of nostalgic feelings — a blend of sweet sadness

Hindi film's '89: a disappointing lot

Finding a good quality movie is like finding a needle in the haystack

By Firoze Rangoonwala

WHAT does the Hindi cinema have to show for the year that just went by? Quantity-wise there were about 140 films, some of them certified but not yet released, or due for screening at the turn of the year. Some dubbed films may be kept out of the reckoning. Yet, out of the bulk, what are the films that stand out for: remarkable quality or high box-office returns or at least some satisfactory entertainment?

Providing an answer is like searching for the proverbial needle in the haystack. Talking of big-budget hits, irrespective of quality, "Ram Lakhan" and "Tridev" floated up from the deep pool of flops, followed by "Chandni" shining with some surprising success in big cities. That makes it a year of two and a half hits since no other films could net profits comparable to any of these, except "Salaam Bombay" which was a foreign production.

Subhash Ghai's "Ram Lakhan," with Jackie Shroff and Anil Kapoor, Dimple and Madhuri was an old crime drama, brothers on opposite sides of the law, aided by a few unusual twists and catchy songs. Anil's character of a clownish criminal and the bunch of weird villains led by "Sir John" got some popular follow-up. The rich production values and gloss added some visual appeal.

Rajiv Rai's "Tridev" had the same tricks, with two tough (Jackie, Sunny) and one comical (Naseeruddin) guys, plus three sexy heroines and a few bizarre bad men, having their den on an impossible location above a waterfall. The film's fluke card, the "Oye oye" song, became its biggest trump. Whether one considers it an erotic mating call, (the male loud and lusty, the female soft and inviting), or a hearty way of hailing in Punjabi style, or an impulsive mischievous way of shouting or even a sort of chest and throat exercise, "Oye oye" was chanted throughout the length and breadth of the country. So it added tremendously to the

commercial success of a film, that was otherwise badly written.

Yash Chopra's "Chandni" had a very poor and unconvincing story as well as script, with absurdly-built situations. But

if content was lacking, the form and style were made modernistic and chic as in "Parinda" and "Chaalbaaz." Directors Vinod Chopra and Pankaj Parasher tried to show off magic

technique without story is like a tempting whore without a heart. The film which created the year's biggest controversy and censor history was "Pati Parmeshwar."

A docile faithful wife and a

th. When released, the men and women both threw it out within two weeks. So much for censor wisdom. Jalal Agha's "Goonj" emerged as tolerable.

1989 saw the shocking specta-

flops. Dharmendra and Jeetendra went on, with only their goodwill to aid them.

Behind the Screen

As anticipated, the Mafia has indeed started dominating the industry and also bulldozing the errant and arrogant stars. Govinda was roughed up and forced to report for the shooting of a film going under a "respectable" title. The puffed up star soon became an obedient boy. So too Aditya. Perhaps to be followed by others like Vinod Khanna. The stars are at last learning that black money is not easy money.

After "Chaalbaaz", it will be "Ghar Ki Mahabharat" presenting yet another version of "Sita Aur Gita", this time in the family drama format. Jay Prada now wants to be one up on Hema Malini and Sri Devi. The docile daughter-in-law will exchange places with the free-loving Amazon and Jaya will have a grand, double-rolled, rollicking

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Happy birthday



Heba Salfat turns 6 today, January 18



Sarah Shehabuddin turns 10 today, January 18



Yasmine Asa'd turns 10 today, January 18



Yousef Hussain turned 14 on January 17



Ankur turned 1 on January 16



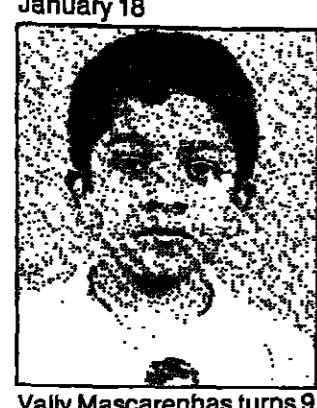
Reem turned 13 on January 15



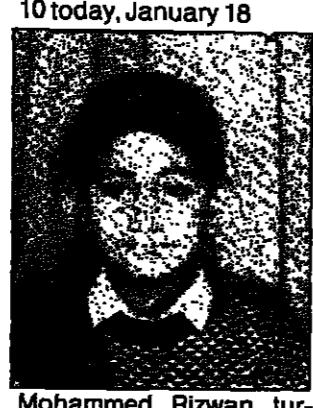
Kelvin Kanagaraj turns 12 today, January 18



Shahzawaz Khan turns 13 today, January 18



Vally Mascarenhas turns 9 today, January 18



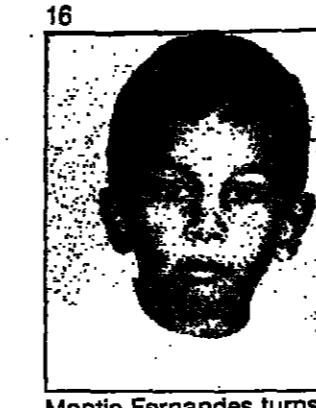
Mohammed Rizwan turned 12 on January 17



Allan Fernandes turns 7 on January 19



Fatimah Arshad turns 8 on January 19



Montie Fernandes turns 6 on January 20



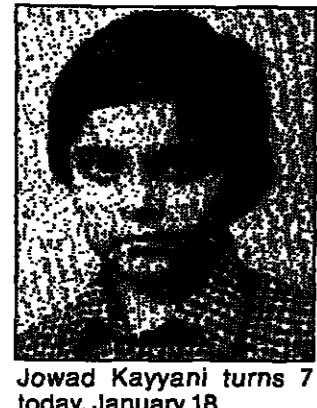
Faiyaz Merchant turns 10 today, January 18



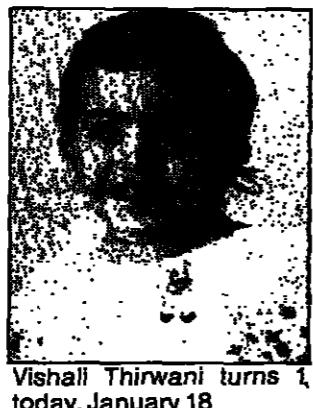
Ashley D'Souza turns 8 today, January 18



Neha Mantri turns 10 on January 14



Jowad Kayyani turns 7 today, January 18



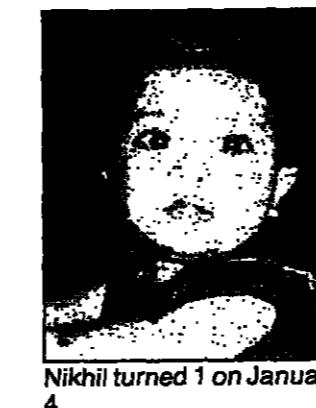
Vishal Thirwani turns 1 today, January 18



Waseem Islah turns 12 today, January 18



Jeevan Kurian turns 5 on January 22



Nikhil turned 1 on January 4



Sushil Cherian turned 12 on January 17



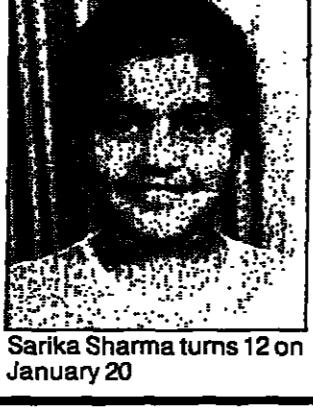
Chadha Singh turned 5 on January 8



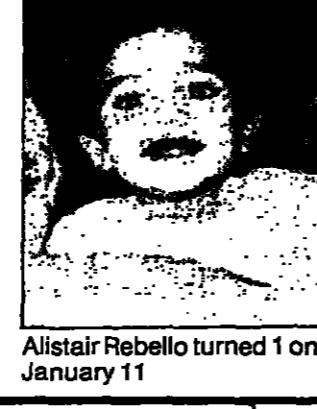
Deepak Haridas turned 5 on January 15



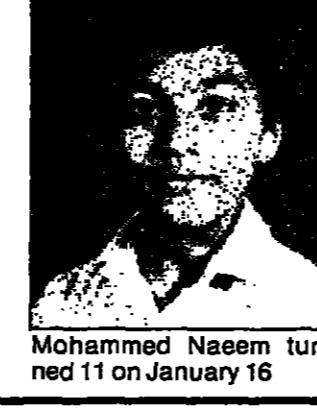
Ayushman Sen turns 1 today, January 18



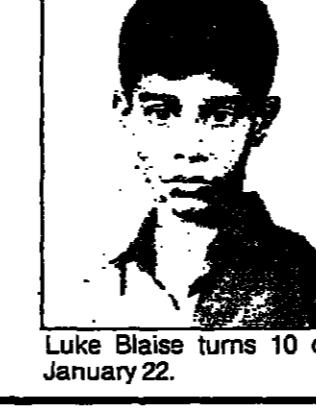
Sarika Sharma turns 12 on January 20



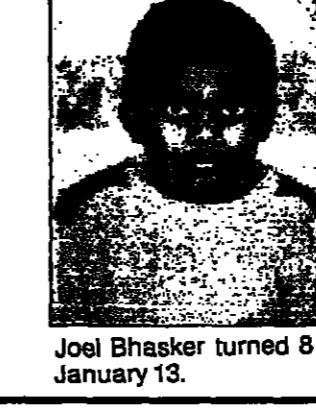
Alistair Rebello turned 1 on January 11



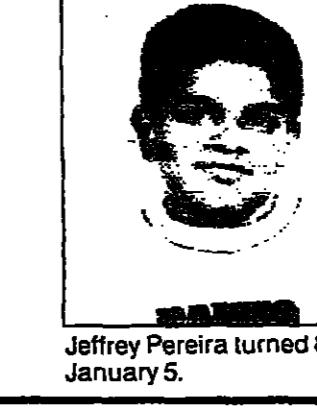
Mohammed Naeem turned 11 on January 16



Luke Blaise turns 10 on January 22



Joel Bhasker turned 8 on January 13



Jeffrey Pereira turned 8 on January 5



Milton Lord turns 5 on January 22

Variety

O'Toole lays ghosts to rest

Stars as a gentle father in new movie 'Pied Piper'

REFORMED hell-raiser of stage and screen Peter O'Toole has laid a few ghosts of his past to rest by starring as a gentle father in his latest film. And the top actor, who recently won joint custody of his beloved son Lorcan after a bitter love-tug battle with his estranged wife Karen, now says that nothing in life is more important to him than children.

O'Toole, aged 57, plays a kindly English gentleman who rescues a band of children during the war in the Granada film *Pied Piper*.

And the gaunt, grey-haired actor, whose limp blue eyes still have the intensity of the passionate screen hero who stole hearts as Lawrence of Arabia nearly 30 years ago, said: "I took the part so I could act with children. I can think of nothing more worthy in life than children — they give so much."

He added: "Making this film brought back memories of my own childhood in Yorkshire, when I was evacuated to the country to escape the bombing during World War Two. Because all this had such a profound effect on me, I can understand children's anguish."

O'Toole insists that his reputation as a wild-eyed, flamboyant Irish eccentric is all in his drink-sodden past. Today, he is teetotal and claims that after two failed marriages he steers clear of love affairs.

And because O'Toole loves children so much, he agreed to star in a film with seven of them, all aged around Lorcan's age. The results is a moving story of an escape from occupied France during World War Two.

It was filmed during a long summer in which O'Toole was separated from Lorcan.

Stan Margulies, executive producer of *Pied Piper*, told me: "Peter has said many times that one of the reasons he agreed to do the film with the children was because of his own son."

"He felt that the film shows that the innocent are always the first victims of war. And the innocents are always best reflected in children."

He went on: "Peter also talked quite a lot about his experiences during the Blitz. I suppose in a way, the film was a catharsis for him."

Filming of *Pied Piper*, which also stars American actress Mare Winningham, may have reawakened painful memories of the Blitz for O'Toole. But his caring approach with his young co-stars, including Alistair Haley, Clare Drummond and David Newton-Schmitt, brought the

whole cast closer together. O'Toole said: "It was exhausting, but fun. Children become totally immersed in their characters. Their sensitivity is very moving. Marlon Brando was right when he said that an actor could learn a lot from watching kids play. Childhood is the most beautiful thing that can exist on this earth."

"Some of my own childhood memories are hurtful. When I was about eight years old, I remember hearing the bombing and seeing barrage balloons during the war."

O'Toole, who has starred in more than 30 popular films and was a blue-eyed blonde screen idol during the Sixties and Seventies, went on: "I haven't kept in touch with the people who looked after me as an evacuee in the Lincolnshire countryside. They seemed to think I was a difficult child — although I didn't think I was."

After his own childhood experiences, O'Toole seems determined to give the children in his life as much love as possible. And that includes his young co-stars.

One of them, little fair-haired Henrietta Baker, who plays Anna, told me: "Peter was lovely. He played cricket with us and was not at all grumpy, like the man he plays, Mr Howard."

O'Toole said: "I've grown attached to every one of this lot. They're all super little profes-

sionals."

O'Toole, who made his stage debut at the age of 17 and has been nominated for several Oscars, is still close to his daughters. He said: "Both my daughters keep an eye on me but they have their own lives to lead. They have a wonderful respect and great love that can come only from a mother."

"And they even used to give me advice about girlfriends."

It was this desire for family closeness which made O'Toole desperate to keep his son before the custody case was resolved.

O'Toole and ex-model Karen separated soon after the birth of their son. But O'Toole wanted to keep the son he had craved for so much that he even attempted to snatch Lorcan from his mother in Bermuda. When Karen took legal action to reclaim the boy, an acrimonious love-tug battle began.

Once O'Toole refused to hand Lorcan back to his mother in America, after the actor had won permission to bring the boy to England for a holiday.

But the final result of the custody case was that O'Toole keeps Lorcan for most of the year, while his mother has him for school holidays. And during one summer, O'Toole made up for the loss of Lorcan by being a father-type figure to his small fellow actors, the children in *Pied Piper*.

O'Toole has suffered plenty of

headaches over the years. He was shattered when his wife of 20 years, Sian Phillips, left him, and soon after that his father died.

He was terribly ill in hospital, and gave up drinking for health reasons. But O'Toole still insists that life is better in his fifties than it ever was.

He admitted: "I enjoy growing older. I find that you enjoy life in general more, and appreciate things you might not have done before."

And the actor who has stolen hearts the world over added that he has no regrets. Although he now enjoys a quiet life working, fishing, and being with Lorcan and his daughters, he doesn't regret those wild years.

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Christmas on GRENADA

CORONET FILM

CO-PRODUCED BY

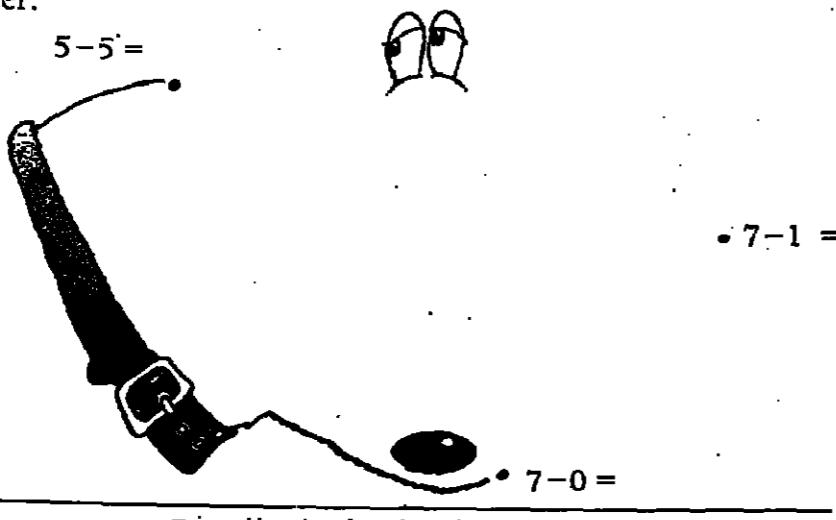
CHRISTIANE

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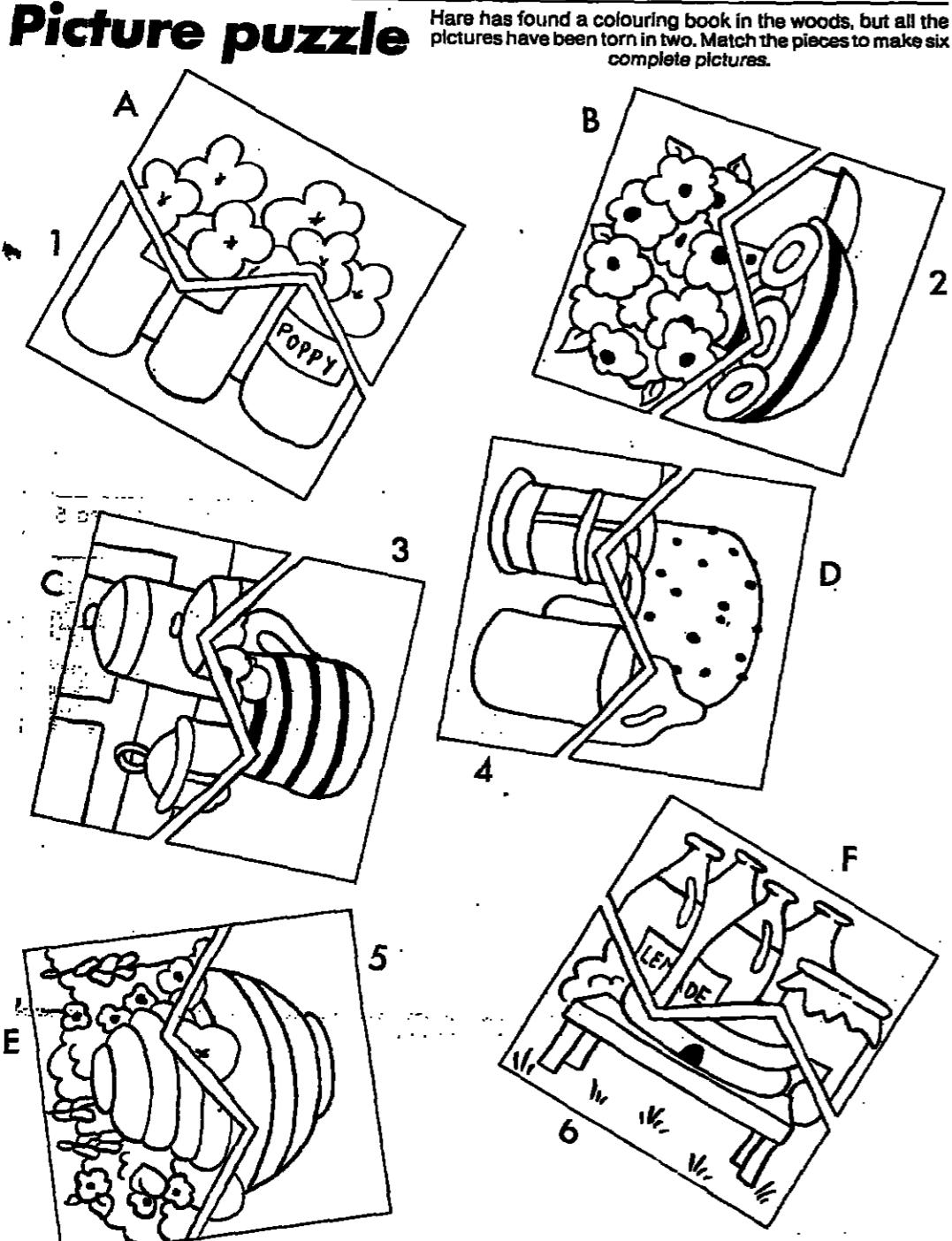
JUNIOR TIMES

Dot-to-dot take aways

Do each take-away.
Then join the dots
in counting order.



Picture puzzle



The Goops again



EVERYBODY liked Ezekiel.

Why?

You could scarcely find his equal.

Why?

If he made a mistake,

He said he was wrong;

If he went on an errand,

He was n't gone long;

He never would bully,

Although he was strong!

Everybody hated Mello.

Why?

He was such a surly fellow.

Why?

If you asked him for candy,

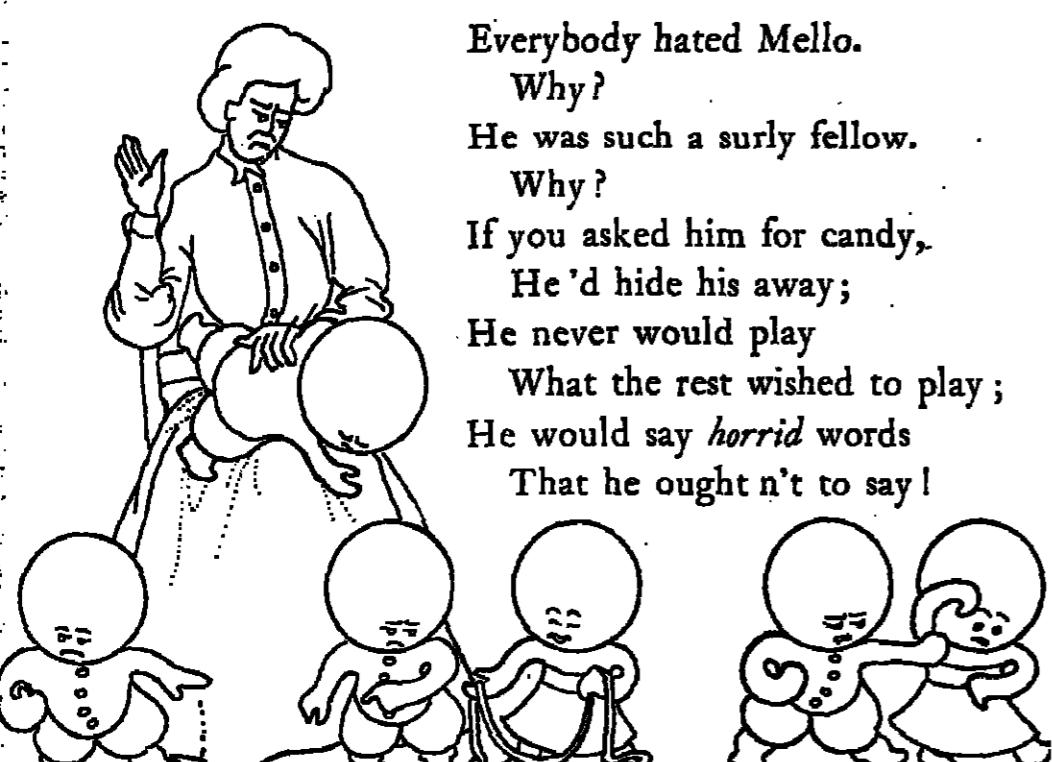
He 'd hide his away;

He never would play

What the rest wished to play;

He would say horrid words

That he ought n't to say!



7-6 = 7-3 =

5-3 = 6-3 =

6-1 =

5-5 =

7-0 =

7-1 =

Word search
PINS 'N NEEDLES

BADGE
BODKIN
BROOCH
CREWEL
CROCHET
DARNING
EMBROIDERY
FIBULA
FRATERNITY
KNITTING
NEEDLE

SCHOOL pin
SEWING machine
SHOEMAKERS
SORORITY
STICK PIN
STRAW
STUD
STYLUS
TACKING
TIE PIN
UPHOLSTERING

H V C S R E K A M E O H S
M H F R C N I K D O B U O
Y C B G E D D U T S P Y R
R N R I N W C S J H T T O
E S O O H I E C O I S A R
D T O J C W N L N G C I
I I C F I H S R N E H K T
O C H N S T E I A G O I Y
R K G V E T P T I D O N S
B P J R A E Y H B A L G T
M I J R I H D L N B G S R
E N F T J B A L U B I F A
G N I T T I N K E S C N W



To Julie Hodgson, a friend of ours,
Together we have spent some happy hours.
Your birthday is Sunday, we wish you luck.
We'll see you at seven at the SAS Peacock!

Happy birthday from all Junior Times readers
and Arab Times staff.

Amazing facts

About Sport



Seven men on a single pair of skis — but no snow in sight!

The ball game called 'pelota', popular in parts of Spain, has a long history. It was invented in Italy, and played in France as early as the 13th century. A French king, Louis X, collapsed and died after playing longue-paume, a tennis-like version of pelota, in 1316. The modern game is said to be the world's fastest ball game, the ball reaching speeds as high as 300 km/h (190mph).

During the reign of Edward III of England, the following games were banned, because of their association with gambling: football, stone-throwing, wood-throwing and iron-throwing, cam-bucam (a kind of golf), quoits, handball, and club-ball.

Lacrosse was first played by the North Americans Indians, who gave the game the name baggataway.

At Isfahan in Iran, there are the remains of an ancient polo ground dating from over 2000 years ago.

Boris Becker, the German who became both the youngest-ever and the first unseeded tennis player to win the Wimbledon men's singles tennis competition in 1985, was several months younger than the junior champion at Wimbledon that year!

William Herbert Grace, doctor and cricketer, made 54,904 runs (including 126 centuries), took 2,876 wickets, and made 877 catches in his career. But perhaps the most remarkable cricketing record is Sri Donald Bradman's average Test-match score of 99.94. Except for an uncharacteristically low score in his final innings, his average would have exceeded 100.

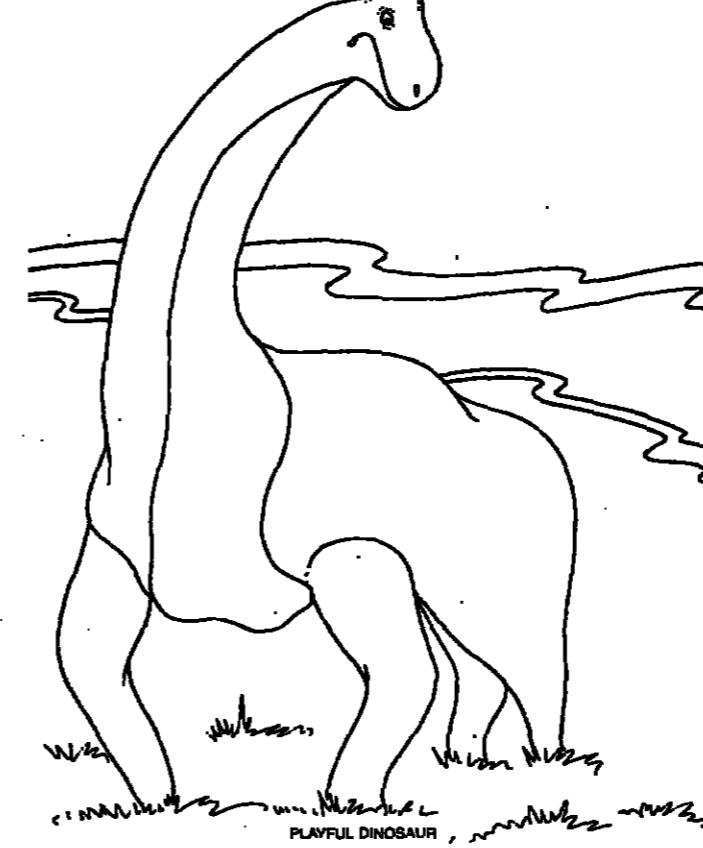
In 1972 in Utah, USA, a man called Allan Abbott managed to reach 222 km/h (139 mph) on a specially-designed pedal cycle. The fastest average speed achieved in orthodox cycling is 49.4km/h (30mph) over a period of an hour, by the Belgian Eddy Merckx in Mexico City in 1972.

In 1950, just under 200,000 people saw the soccer match played between Brazil and Uruguay at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The biggest sports crowd is probably the ten million or so people who turn out to see various stages of the Tour de France cycle race every summer.

In 1922, a British firm invented a golf ball equipped with a tiny parachute — a device which slowed the ball down, and enabled beginners to practice at home without endangering their neighbours.

At about 5 hectares (12.4 acres) in area, a polo field is the largest pitch in sport.

Colour Timing



Dear Junior readers,

With this extreme freeze-wave in the atmosphere, many are liable to catch a cold. Colds are very uncomfortable and depressing, but if you manage to adapt to them you'll recover quickly with no side effects.

Sneezes never fail to accompany the common cold, so when your nose threatens to begin running, keep a box of tissues at arm's reach. A bad habit, common in many children and some adults, is sniffing when a runny nose. This is both unhealthy and disgusting. The form is because the germs are forced to stay inside the body instead of being disposed.

However, blowing the nose frequently causes tender skin around the nostrils; keep a small tube of cream, preferably baby cream close by. As soon as soreness begins, gently smooth a bit of the cream around your nostrils.

Try to add more vitamins to your diet, especially vitamin C, found in oranges, grapefruit and other citrus fruits. Vitamins help to fight off colds.

If you have a sore throat, make an attempt to drink as many warm drinks as possible. Add a few drops of fresh lemon juice to each plain glass of water. Use warm water, maybe half from the kettle and the other from the filter top; be careful if it's not too hot!

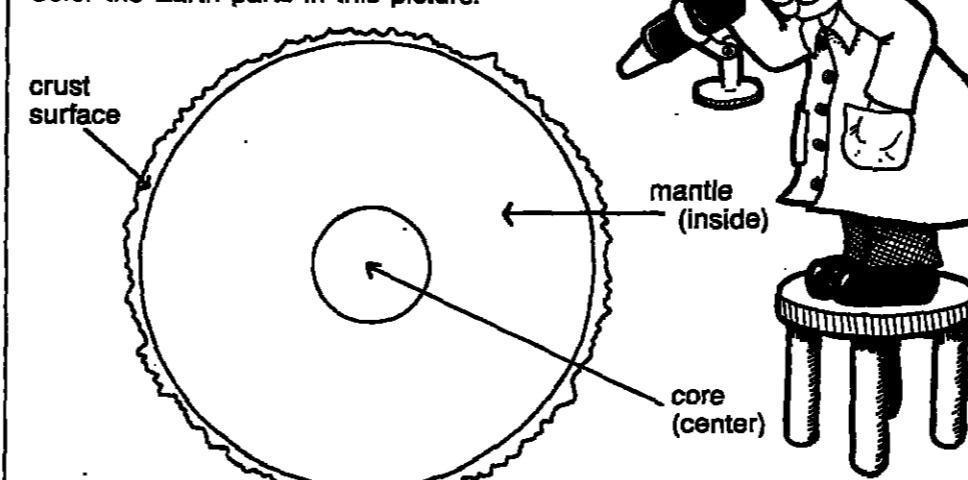
Basically, try to interpret what your body needs and determine the best cure. Doctor's only cure the germs, you have to suffer with any side effects.

Monal

How Do Scientists Know?

Most scientists think the Earth is made of layers — the crust, the mantle, and the core.

Color the Earth parts in this picture.



But we can't see inside the Earth. So, how do scientists know? Scientists base their ideas on information they collect about the Earth.

Can you tell what is inside a box without looking inside? Check your answer.

Materials Needed: box, object

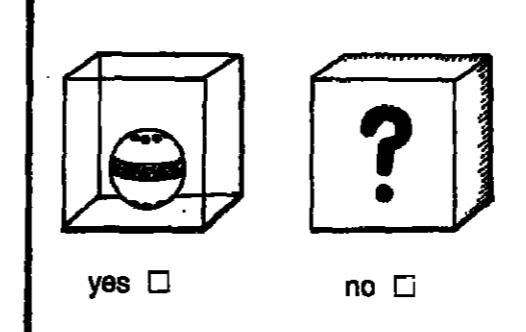
Procedure

1. You will be divided into research teams. Each team prepares a MYSTERY BOX.
2. Each team collects information about the MYSTERY BOXES.

Results and Conclusions

1. How many boxes did you guess? _____ How many? _____
2. Were you right on any boxes? _____
3. What did you learn? _____

Hypothesis



Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?

Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!

Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.

The details we need are:

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

School: _____

Hobbies: _____

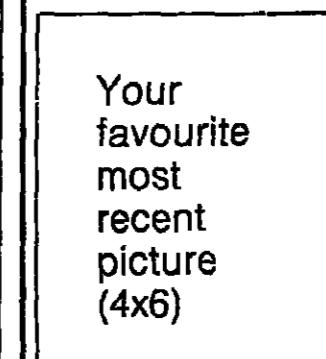
Telephone: _____ (confidential)

Send to:

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within a week before the special date



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PASSPORT and Civil ID. No. EM215202 in the name of Alexandra Pollock, Canadian. Finder please tele. 4848705, 8 am - 1 pm. (AT4-51127-3)

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Horse kicks Walker

HAMILTON: New Zealand, Jan 17, (Reuter): Former Olympic 1,500 metres champion John Walker pulled out of a Commonwealth Games warm-up meeting today after being kicked on the ankle by a horse.

With a week to go before the Games open in Auckland, New Zealand's former world mile record holder, had been due to race England's Olympic silver medalist Peter Elliott over 1,000 metres at Hamilton's Porritt stadium.

In spite of the lack of competition Elliott set a New Zealand all-comers' record and a personal best with his winning time of two minutes 16.30 seconds.

But the eagerly awaited duel with Walker, 38 next week, failed to materialise after the Auckland man injured his left Achilles tendon.

Meeting organiser Brett Addison said Walker, who trains and breeds horses, had been kicked at a horse sale in Hamilton this morning and decided not to race after a tentative attempt at warming up.

"It is quite painful at the moment but it could be just bruising," said Addison, adding that he did not expect Walker's appearance in the 1,000 and 1,500 metres at the Games to be jeopardised. "He is going to see it through."

An injury to the same tendon, after he was spiked at a race in Gatehead, England, kept Walker out of the Seoul Olympics 18 months ago.

Walker said he was confident of competing in the Games. "I should be OK," he said. "I tried to warm up but it was too painful and I could not do anything."

Elliott, paced by local-motorised support crews and 500 spectators for the first lap, had to battle with strong headwinds to his progress.

Hamilton's New Zealand record, 2:16.30 set by the Union's Peter Elliott, was hard to beat, the back of the field because of the headwind.

"I think it was the best race I have ever run in calm conditions," said Elliott.

"It shows that things are going well for the Games," added the world 800 metres silver medalist, who ran alone after Goodwin dropped out at 500 metres.

Elliott, who beat Walker over 800 metres in Auckland last weekend, will run 1,500 metres — his Games distance — at another meeting in the city on Saturday.

He said he was undaunted by the prospect of racing fellow Englishman Sebastian Coe, the former double Olympic 1,500 metres champion and his big rival for the Games' health title.

"The better the competition, the better it will be," he said simply. "It won't mean anything because there are still two weeks until the Games race."

Commonwealth double gold medalist Debbie Flintoff-King, the lone Australian in the low-key meeting, was badly beaten in three races, showing she has still to recover fully from an Achilles tendon injury.

After two false starts in the 100 metres she finished sixth, 0.37 of a second behind winner Helen Pirovano of New Zealand. She was third, more than one second behind runner-up Mercy Addy of Ghana, in the 400 metres.

Flintoff-King, Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion and 1986 Commonwealth winner in the same event and the 400 metres, was also well off the pace in a low class 200 metres.

Swaziland will not compete in the Games because of cash problems.

The 31 members of the Games team were to have left for New Zealand yesterday, but when they gathered at the Royal Palace to meet King Mswati they were told to return home.

A government official said there was no money to finance the trip, although some members of the team paid their own air fares.

Urine samples will be flown business class from London to Sydney for drug testing each morning during the Games amid strict security measures to prevent tampering.

McEnroe thrashes Austrian

MELBOURNE, Jan 17, (Reuter): John McEnroe, enjoying his best start to a Grand Slam tournament for many years, today gave his second tennis masterclass in two days to reach the third round of the Australian Open.

Repeating his first round performance, the American number four seed conceded just four games against Alex Antonitsch, driving the Austrian to distraction with a display of touch and vision most players on the circuit can only dream of.

"If I keep playing like this I'll be difficult to beat, I just hope it keeps going," said McEnroe after his 6-1 6-2 6-1 victory on centre court. "It's a great start, I haven't started like this in a Grand Slam for a while."

McEnroe's deft display, which reduced the frustrated Antonitsch to serving underarm for one point in the second set, was in sharp contrast to world number one Ivan Lendl's workmanlike demolition of Tomas Carbonell of Spain.

The Czechoslovak defending champion won 6-4 6-2 6-3 and realises he is somewhere off his best form. "I could always hit the ball better but I suppose as long as you're winning it doesn't matter how you hit the ball."

Steffi Graf, bidding for her third successive Open title, was also below her best against American Erika de Lome, a teenager ranked 298 who achieved the rare distinction of breaking the world number one's serve twice in one set.

Graf, who won 6-1 6-2, blamed Boris Becker for her below-par performance following the West German pair's 30-minute practice session last night.

Antonitsch, ranked 98th in the world, was beaten within 13 minutes of the start of his match, finding himself 5-0 down against the expressionless McEnroe.



Lendl (left) reaches for a forehand volley while Graf (centre) signs autographs and Becker tries on the smashed glasses of a linesman. (Reuter wirephoto)



Graf (left) reaches for a forehand volley while Graf (centre) signs autographs and Becker tries on the smashed glasses of a linesman. (Reuter wirephoto)



Becker tries on the smashed glasses of a linesman. (Reuter wirephoto)

Eschewing Lendl's now-familiar legionnaire's hat, McEnroe, sporting a lurid green bandana, even read Antonitsch's underarm serve and won the point to take a 5-2 lead in the second set.

McEnroe's display came as a blessed relief to the sun-blasted spectators on centre court who had earlier sat through nearly four hours of slam-bang tennis between number 15 seed Thomas Muster and Christo van Rensburg of South Africa.

Both players slugged and grunted their way through a stolid diet of baseline topspin before Muster, urged on by a large crowd of his sun-bathing compatriots, emerged from a 38-shot rally at matchpoint to reach the third round.

Muster will meet Frenchman Henri Leconte, an artist in the mould, whose recovery from six months out with a back injury gathered pace with a 6-2 6-3 6-4 defeat of Peter Korda of Czechoslovakia.

Results

Second round results in the Australian Open tennis championships today, the third day of the two-week tournament (prefix number denotes seeding):

Mikhail Peres (Sweden) beat 13-Thomas

Muster (Austria) 6-1 7-5 2-6 6-4; Christo van Rensburg (South Africa) 6-1 7-5 2-6 6-4; Stevie Hutchinson (Australia) beat Alexander Volkov (Soviet Union) 6-1 6-7 5-2 6-6-2; Dan Gordin (US) beat Nicolas Perina (Venezuela) 6-2 6-3 6-4; Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia) 6-2 6-3 6-4; Michael Stich (West Germany) 6-4 6-4 6-0 (revised); Sarah Lockett (Soviet Union) 6-3 6-4; Steffi Graf (West Germany) beat Elena Pampushny (Russia) 6-3 6-4; Katerina Malceva (Bulgaria) beat Katsi McDonald (Australia) 6-3 6-2; Silke Meier (West Germany) 6-2 6-4; Katerina Malceva (Bulgaria) beat Katsi McDonald (Australia) 6-3 6-2; 13-Raffaela Reggi (Australia) 6-3 6-2; Michael Stich (West Germany) 6-4 6-3; 1-Erik Korda (Czechoslovakia) 6-2 6-3 6-4; Andrei Charkasov (Soviet Union) beat Glenn Layden (US) 6-4 7-7 5-6-0; Todd Woodbridge (Australia) beat Claudio Pistori (Italy) 6-3 6-2; Rachel McQuillan (Australia) beat Kirilly Sharpe (Australia) 6-3 6-0; 1-Steffi Graf (West Germany) beat Erika de Lome (US) 6-1 6-2; Andre Huber (West Germany) beat Elise Buren (US) 6-2 6-1; 12-Boris Becker (Germany) beat Cecilia Dahlman (Sweden) 2-6 6-1 6-3; 9-Andrea Gomes (Escudero) beat Bruno Ovresar (Yugoslavia) 6-4 3-6 6-3-2; 11-Paul Shriver (US) beat Nicole Provin (Australia) 1-6 6-2 7-6; Barbara Paulus (Germany) 6-3 6-2; 13-John McEnroe (US) 7-6 7-1 6-4 6-4; 4-John McEnroe (US) beat Alex Antonitsch (Austria) 6-1 6-2 6-4; Glad Bloom (Israel) beat Christian Bergstrom (Sweden) 2-6 5-7 6-2 6-4 6-2; 12-Yannick Noah (France) beat Ronald Agnew (Haiti) 7-6 (7-3) 6-3; 5-Jana Novotna (Czechoslovakia) beat Andrea Temesvari (Hungary) 6-1 6-1.

An action shot from the juniors game.

Seniors table tennis gets under way

THE Mitsubishi-IAC table-tennis championships for the seniors gets under way tomorrow at the IAC badminton hall, Aruna Nair and Mrs Viji Kuttu have been selected for men's and women's singles events respectively.

The men's singles events will commence at 9.00 am, followed by the women's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles at 11.00 am. The finals of all the events will begin at about 3.00 pm including the junior boys doubles between Rahul Kapoor and Zahid Rehman against P. Karthik and Usman Ahmed. Rahul and Zahid will also fight it out for the juniors singles championship award.

The seedings for the events is as follows:

Men's Singles: 1. Aruna Nair, 2. Viji Verma; Men's doubles: 1. Aruna Nair & Kulbir Sethi, 2. Viji Verma & partner; women's singles: 1. Viji Kuttu, 2. Darryl Satish; Mixed doubles: 1. Aruna Nair & Pooja Vedi, 2. Shivi Bhansali & Viji Kuttu.

Bucks take Warriors to task

MILWAUKEE, Jan 17, (AP): Alvin Robertson had a season-high 37 points and a career-high 16 rebounds as the Milwaukee Bucks rallied on 15 straight points in the third period to beat the Golden State Warriors 134-126 last night.

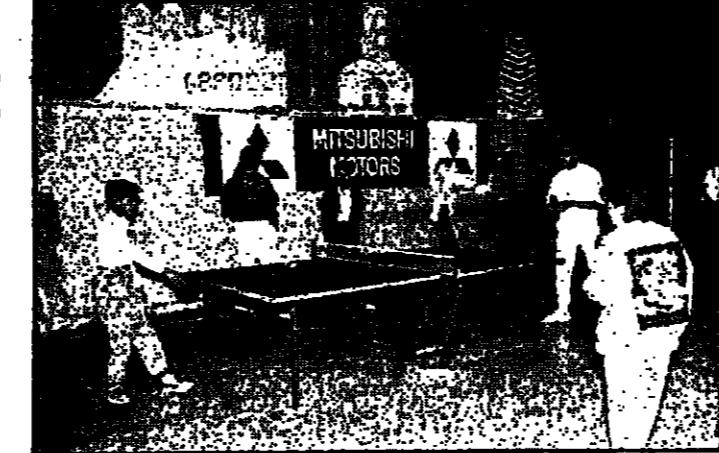
The victory denied Golden State's Don Nelson, who coached for 11 years in Milwaukee, his 600th victory.

Ricky Pierce had 31 points and Jay Humphries 20 for the Bucks. Chris Mullin led the Warriors with a season-high 39 points, 25 in the first half.

Robertson had 19 first-half points for the Bucks before retiring to the bench with three fouls. He also led Milwaukee with eight assists.

Clippers 108, Hornets 98

Ron Harper scored 33 points



An action shot from the juniors game.

Britain bids for 1993 Cup

before leaving with a knee injury in the fourth quarter as Los Angeles dropped Charlotte to 0-16 on the road.

Charlotte is the only NBA team without a road victory this season. The Hornets have lost six straight games overall.

Kelly Tripucka scored a season-high 30 points and Dell Curry had 21 for Charlotte, which made only one field goal in the final 3 1/2 minutes.

Results

Milwaukee 134 Golden State 126

LA Clippers 106 Charlotte 98

Portland 120 Denver 98

Sacramento 108 Atlanta 91

Horse plague outbreak over, says Spain

MADRID, Jan 17, (Reuter): Spain has eradicated an outbreak of the African equine plague which killed hundreds of horses last year and jeopardised the equestrian events at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the agriculture ministry said yesterday.

It said no horse had died of the disease in the past two months, and Spain had notified the end of the outbreak to international organisations.

The highly infectious disease, which had been eliminated from all of Europe, struck three times in Spain over the past three years. The last outbreak affected only the south of the country, where nearly 180,000 horses were vaccinated.

The International Equestrian Federation has said it would recommend by the end of the summer whether Olympic equestrian events could be held in Barcelona. Several countries, including Britain, France, the Netherlands and West Germany, have offered alternative venues.

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"If individual sponsor deals are allowed, there will certainly be competition for them."

Adidas, which sells sports clothing and equipment as well as boots and shoes, is an example of a company likely to be in the market for East Germany.

Western companies, keen to advertise their products to emerging markets in the Eastern bloc, are eager to give East Germany successful sports stars the same kind of financial support they provide for their Western counterparts.

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SPORTS

SHOWJUMPING

Kuwaitis wait for success

DUBAI: Kuwaiti riders were kept waiting for success on the opening day of the Dubai Horse Show yesterday while the UAE enjoyed an immediate hat-trick of victories.

First to strike for the host country was Bakheet Subail who won the Etienne Aigner Opening Stakes on Charm.

With eight horses out of 37 starters surviving the first part of the competition, Subail and Charm produced the only clear round of the jump-off in a time of 47.37 secs at the Dubai Metropolitan Hotel showground.

Adel Ahmed was faster on Dubai Equestrian Centre's Oliver, but they had three faults in a time of 46.90 secs. The best time of all came from Yousef Saleh on his own horse Sinbad, who had one fence down for four faults in 37.71 secs.

With Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, among the main sponsors and the official carrier for the show, another home success followed when Annisa Bujasaim on Dubai Equestrian Club's Tia Maria produced a clear round in 30.72 secs in the Juniors and Children's Intermediate Open.

Narrowly beaten into second place after another immaculate round in 30.97 secs was Aweena Daswani on Dubai Surprise, while Umm Al Quwain's Eve Fraser on Hakim went clear in 31.51 secs to finish third.

With a massive entry of 88 for the Dubai Television Stakes, in which three seconds were added for each fence down, Joanna Hancock steered Dubai Equestrian Centre's Minnie the Minx to victory in 40.91 seconds.

Second for Kuwait with a time of 41.27 secs on Hot Gossip was Nader Ibrahim, while Ahmad Sharida took third place in 43.12 secs on Lys Du Conte, owned by Sheikh Ahmad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince of Bahrain, and the horse Sharida rode to victory in the Grand Prix in the climax to last year's show.

Among the other challengers from around the Gulf later aiming to make their mark in last night's Khaled Times Stakes were Saudi Arabia's Prince Mohamed Al Saad, a member of the five-rider Public Security team from Riyadh, and Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant Rakad Al Dhafeen, a three-times winner in Dubai last year.



ACCEPTS

APPLICATIONS

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Platini & Co. in Kuwait on nine-day tour

France play Qadsiya today

THE French national soccer team arrived in Kuwait yesterday on a nine-day tour, during which they will play three matches.

France plays the first of its friendlies this evening against Qadsiya Club at the Kazma Club at 4.30 pm. The next game will pit the visitors against Kuwait on Sunday, Jan 21, at 5.30 pm and on Wednesday, Jan 24, they meet East Germany. The last two games will also be held at the Kazma stadium.

French team manager Michel Platini said that the tour would help towards building a team for the 1992 European Championship and the 1994 World Cup. He also thanked Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad, the chairman of the Kuwait Football Association, for arranging this tour.

Platini added that France had chosen Kuwait as a training site due to the excellent facilities provided to them by the KFA.

He said the coming match will also give a chance to the French and Kuwait teams to prepare for the coming championships.

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Platini (2nd right) with Sheikh Talal Al Khaled Al Ahmed

Kuwait is hosting the Gulf Soccer Championship next month.

A very large press and information delegation, 35 members, has also come along with the team to Kuwait. Platini said this visit was also important for the

expected to take part in this evening's match. He has had a very successful season so far with Marseille.

Platini, who visited Kuwait a number of times at the invitation of Kuwaiti, praised the standard of the Kuwaiti team.

Platini was a member of the French team which beat Kuwait 4-1 in the 1982 World Cup in Spain. During his reign as captain, France was rated among the best in the world and also reached the semifinals of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico. They last semi-final to West Germany.

France have not been able to qualify for this year's World Cup finals in Italy. They started their Cup qualifiers badly, losing most of their matches. They rallied towards the end, beating Scotland 3-0 but paid the penalty for a draw in one of their earlier matches.

This trip to Kuwait is a happy one for Tahiti-born Pascal Vahirua, who will be making his debut for the French team. He is the first Tahiti born player to play for France.

Pierre Papin, Papin was in hospital and the whole squad was surprised when he arrived at airport to accompany the team to Kuwait.

Papin, who was still on crutches at the Kuwait airport, is not

expected to take part in this evening's match. He has had a very successful season so far with Marseille.

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Italy extend Cup manager's contract
Maradona raps reporter

ROME, Jan 17, (Reuter): World Cup hosts Italy have decided to extend national team manager Azeglio Vicini's contract until 1992 in a show of confidence before next June's finals. Italian Soccer Federation officials said today.

They said the contract, which would take Vicini through to the European championships in Sweden, was expected to be signed by early February.

Vicini, who took over from Enzo Bearzot after Italy's poor performance in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, said he was delighted with the agreement. His current contract is due to expire in August.

"If it goes through to signing, as I hope, I can only be satisfied because it is a signal of confidence and esteem," he said.

■ Temperamental Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona threatened to make an angry confrontation at a television station.

"You should be ashamed of yourself," if you know what shame means

"I'll make you eat this newspaper," Maradona told Naples journalist Giuseppe Pacileo, according to staff at the private television station.

Pacileo, from the Naples Daily Mattino, had given Maradona a measly 3.5 out of ten for his performance in last Sunday's League match against Udinese.

Maradona, who was due to make a broadcast with Pacileo on Monday, first brandished a copy of the Mattino then threw it at him.

The journalist left the television station, missing the broadcast.

"Maradona didn't lay hands on me, he just rested two fingers on my chin and I flicked them off," he told the Gazzetta Dello Sport.

In Sunday's match, League leaders Napoli were 2-0 down to their title fancied opposition with just three minutes remaining when Maradona scored from the penalty spot and then set up an equaliser in injury time.

Southampton beat Swindon

LONDON, Jan 17, (Reuter): Southampton recovered from 2-0 down at half-time to crush Second-Division Swindon 4-2 after extra time and reach the last eight of the English Soccer League Cup tomorrow.

Paul Rideout rescued the First Division high-flyers with an equaliser five minutes from time after Swindon had looked set to become only the second club to win at Southampton this season.

Swindon took command of the fourth-round replay when Alan McLoughlin scored with a splendid solo effort in the 33rd minute and Steve White added a second three minutes later.

Welsh international Barry Horne reduced the deficit two minutes into the second half but Southampton, fourth in the First

Division, had to wait until the 85th for striker Rideout to hit the equaliser from close range.

Matthew Le Tissier curled home a free